

Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed laws are the opinion of the authors.

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE S
(REPEAL OF WATER RATE INCREASE)

A “No” vote will uphold the City’s decision to increase water rates for critical repairs and improvements to the water system. Clean water is critical to the quality of life of our residents and reliable water service is essential. We cannot afford to jeopardize the City’s water system. The existing water rates are necessary to provide safe, uncontaminated, and reliable water service. Please vote “No” on Measure S.

In 2019, the Dixon City Council approved water rate increases through 2022. The City’s wells, pumps, storage tanks, and pipes need maintenance and important upgrades so the City can deliver clean, safe, and reliable water to residents. We also need regular safety testing, adequate staffing for responsive customer service, and strong water pressure for our fire department when fires occur. The old rates no longer cover these costs.

The water rates are an investment in Dixon’s future. The new rates began in April 2019, and the largest increases have already occurred. All payments go directly toward maintaining and operating the water system. Under state law, the City cannot charge above the cost of providing service and must justify all expenses.

The legality of rolling back water rates is currently being challenged in the courts. Rolling back rates threatens water quality and dependable water service, which are essential government functions. Backtracking now would jeopardize the progress made in securing our water system. If Measure S passes, the City will have to impose the old water rates and begin the rate setting process again. This means added costs and potentially unstable and unreliable water service. Let’s move forward, not backward.

A “No” vote on Measure S means clean water and dependable service for the long haul.

A “Yes” vote on Measure S means more delay, added costs, and a less secure water system.

/s/ Jim Ernest, Councilmember

/s/ Scott Pederson, Councilmember