

“ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE K ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS”

Argument in Favor of Measure K – November 5, 2024 Ballot

Rio Vista faced a \$935,000 budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 prior to cuts. With reductions in staffing and operations, the deficit is approximately \$496,866 without any employee cost of living adjustments. The City Council is urging passage of a 1% Sales Tax with a five-year sunset. This means if you purchased \$100 of taxable goods in Rio Vista, you would spend an additional \$1.00. The benefits of this tax over a property tax, is that this tax would also be paid by visitors. The City would retain all revenue generated. The funds could be used to maintain existing General Fund services such as fire/paramedic, police services, improve our deteriorating streets, replace the worn-out mobile police station, increase recreation, or other general fund expenditures. A Citizen Oversight Committee will oversee revenues and expenditures, providing credibility and transparency.

Without a sales tax increase, maintaining existing services such as fire/paramedic, police, and general city services are impossible. Since we operate with minimum police staffing, fire/paramedic services will unfortunately be reduced, and parks will be unmaintained. As a result, fire response times will increase placing residents' lives at risk.

We have done what we can. We are implementing an aggressive economic development strategy, received grants, and increased revenue from the business park. We made cuts, had less staff do more work, and delayed infrastructure repairs. Meanwhile, costs continue to outpace revenue.

If this Tax is not approved, we will be forced to make DEEPER CUTS. Services such as police and fire will be impacted critically.

We can no longer balance the budget without additional revenue. We **MUST** maintain our current level of services. This Tax will fill the gap while we look for additional alternatives. This revenue stays in Rio Vista, with an oversight committee to ensure it's spent on what you believe we need most.

/s/ Ronald Kott, Mayor, City of Rio Vista

/s/ Edwin Okamura, Vice Mayor, City of Rio Vista

/s/ Rick Dolk, Councilmember, City of Rio Vista

/s/ Sarah Donnelly, Councilmember, City of Rio Vista

/s/ Walt Stanish, Councilmember, City of Rio Vista