

CITY ATTORNEY’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS
Measure “O”

The City’s Clean Water/Beaches/Street Repairs/Safety Measure contains the following provisions:

- General sales (transaction & use) tax for vital City services, including, but not limited to, the following as identified in Measure “O”:
 - Protecting local drinking water supplies and establishing water conservation programs;
 - Maintaining and improving fire, police, and paramedic response times;
 - Keeping all fire stations open;
 - Protecting local beaches, rivers, and coast waters from pollution;
 - Keeping our neighborhood safe from gangs and drugs;
 - Effectively addressing the issue of homelessness;
 - Protecting and seismically repairing bridges;
 - Maintaining local streets, roads, and essential City services;
 - Improving services for seniors, the disabled, and veterans; and,
 - Any other general fund purpose.

- Sets the tax rate at one-half of one percent of every taxable sales dollar.

- Becomes effective ten days after the certification by the City Council with sufficient votes for passage; the tax becomes operative April 1, 2017 for a period of 25 years.

- Requires an independent audit of all expenditures from revenue raised by the Measure.
- Suspends the tax, after notice to the State, should the State divert this revenue for State purposes.
- Forms a Citizens' Oversight Committee of five voting members who:
 - Must be registered voters of City and no elected officials or City employees are allowed to be members.
 - Meet at least quarterly to review revenues and expenditures and report findings to the City Council.
 - Make budget recommendations to the City Council for expenditures of revenue raised prior to budget adoption.
 - Make recommendations to the City Council after review of independent City audit.
 - Are appointed to 4-year staggered terms.
- Prior to adoption of budget, City Manager and the Director of Finance and Technology present the City Council with an accounting of revenue and expenditures collected and made under the Measure.
- The City Council has the authority to amend the Measure in the following areas:
 - Composition of the Citizens Oversight Committee.

- To suspend or not suspend the tax if the State diverts the revenue collected under the Measure on a temporary basis and to thereafter reactivate it.
- To remain consistent with the requirements of the State to allow for the continued collection of the tax.
- Requires a further vote of the people before the tax rate may be increased or the term of the tax extended.

To pass, this Measure must obtain at least 50% plus one of those votes cast on the Measure as “yes” votes.

This Measure was placed on the ballot by a vote of the City Council.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure “O.” If you desire a copy of Measure “O,” please call the City Clerk’s Office at (805) 658-4787 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

*The full text of Measure “O” can also be found on the City’s website at: cityofventura.net/election.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY G. DIAZ
City Attorney