

Argument Against Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District Measure E

Parks are one of the joys of life. We think so also.

But in 2016, we OPPOSE the new special tax for our Park District.

In 2004 the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association supported a special tax for our Park District to buy, improve, and maintain parkland.

Have you been to the land that your Park District bought with your money in recent years? Have you submitted an “Access Permit Application” to the Park District for the privilege of treading on some of it?

Officials who run the Park District need to start spending our tax money on the recreational needs of ordinary people like us.

For example, the Park District should pay the \$20 million cost of creating the Fort Ord Rec Trail and Greenway (FORTAG). That seems obvious: it’s a park!

Instead, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County is left to pay for it, as if it were a highway.

Meanwhile, the Park District spends our money buying up land we’ll probably never see.

There are other concerns for those of us who pay taxes to our Park District.

According to the Transparent California website database, the Park District general manager who retired in 2010 collected a pension of more than \$177,000 in 2015. In four years his total pension payout was about \$694,000. That’s a lot!

Finally, in 2015 the Park District awarded two no-bid contracts totaling \$80,000 to a San Francisco campaign consulting firm to prepare for this tax measure. If you are a registered voter, you received a glossy four-page full-color mail piece about the tax in July. Those contracts and that mail was paid for by you, the taxpayer!

Compel your Park District to clean up its act. Vote NO on Measure E.

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