

# Sutter County Taxpayers Association

P.O. Box 1232, Yuba City, CA 95992  
www.suttertaxpayers.com  
530-673-6562

***Mission Statement: To ensure, by means of an informed and knowledgeable public and active participation in government, that Sutter County government entities operate with honesty, integrity and cost-effectiveness.***

Fall 2016

You are invited to hear

**David Kline**

**California Taxpayers Association**

**Come and learn from David Kline of the California Taxpayers Association about the numerous propositions on the November 8 ballot. As Vice President of Communications and Research, Kline's responsibilities include editor of the CalTaxletter, fielding media inquiries, overseeing research projects and production of CalTax publications.**

**Wednesday, October 19, Noon  
Ruthy's - 229 Clark, Yuba City.  
Call 673-6562 or 530-671-7916 for Reservations**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Yuba City Council Candidate Forum**

**A forum for Yuba City Council candidates will be held on Thursday, October 13, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 17<sup>th</sup> and B Streets in Marysville hosted by the Yuba Sutter Tea Party Patriots and the Sutter County Taxpayers Association.**

**Confirmed participants are Manny Cardoza, Fotine Halikaskopriva, Shon Harris, Wade Kirchner, Jason Rikard and Dena Walker. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with doors open at 6 p.m.**

## **About Measure Q**

Measure Q on the November 8 ballot would authorize the issuance of \$33,565,000 in new bonds for the Yuba Community College District.

State law, Proposition 39, passed by the voters in 2000, prohibits community colleges from issuing bonds where the cost would exceed a property owner's payment of more than \$25 per \$100,000 of assessed value and they have reached that point under Measure J which was passed in 2006 and authorized \$190 million in bonds. Bonds totaling \$156,432,120 have been issued under Measure J so far. The last batch was issued in April 2016 for \$26,500,000 and the assessment for that issuance has not shown up on your taxes as yet. If passed, Measure Q would make two new assessments on your property taxes.

Proposition 39 requires a "list of the specific school facilities projects to be funded" when asking voters to pass school bonds. The laundry list of projects proposed for Measure Q is lengthy and extremely general under the heading "renovation, modernization, repair and construction of school facilities." The list does not include specifics as to buildings or campus locations as required. Maintenance items such as routine repair and replacement of worn facility elements should be handled through the college's routine, pay as you go, operations and maintenance budgets. Moreover, bond issues are intended to be reserved for capital improvements such as new facilities. It is inappropriate to expect taxpayers to support the maintenance of facilities provided to the college by imposing those maintenance costs by new citizen indebtedness.

The District has not been good stewards of our tax dollars. Remember the capital appreciation bonds issued under Measure J wherein a \$4.6 million bond would cost \$54 million in interest?

The inclusion of interest and administrative costs will increase the Measure Q bond issue cost to taxpayers by nearly \$10,000,000 raising the REAL new costs imposed on taxpayers to close to \$43,000,000.

The nation-wide economic downturn started in 2007 and continues to this day. Now is not the time to increase our taxes and our debt. Vote No. on Measure Q.

## **Pension Debt Increases**

CalPERS pension debt for Sutter County, Yuba City and Live Oak increased again this year. Sutter County's CalPERS unfunded liability is \$125.1 million as of June 30, 2015 -- up from \$117.8 million at the end of June 2014. Yuba City's CalPERS unfunded liability as of June 30, 2015 is \$59 million – an increase of \$9.6 million from June 30, 2014 when its debt was \$49.4 million. Live Oak's unfunded liability as of the end of June 2015 is \$1.4 million up from \$1.2 million at the end of June 2014. And, with CalPERS's miniscule 0.61% return on its 2015-16 investments, the debts are sure to rise again next year.

Sutter County's ever-increasing employee pension costs could have been significantly minimized by a bit of prudence on the part of state officials, PERS retirement bureaucrats and our local county officials. It was the latter who imposed the huge, growing costs of retroactive county employee retirement pay on Sutter's citizens, without a proper, full, open public information hearing. Equally disturbing is the fact that two existing Sutter County supervisors who put the county into this costly predicament, continue to make your decisions for you. Hello citizens; our forefathers warned us that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance!

## **Levee Update**

A lion's share of the work to fix 44 miles of the west Feather River levee has been completed. Slurry walls and seepage berms have been constructed in 37 miles of levee from Star Bend to the Thermalito Averbay in Butte County. A one-

mile section at Laurel Avenue at the southern end of the county is scheduled for slurry wall construction next year at a cost of \$10.5 million. Also in Sutter County, the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) hopes to complete repair work in Yuba City at the Union Pacific Railroad Crossing, the city's water treatment intake pipe and at the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge this year.

Remaining unfunded work includes a four-mile section from Star Bend to Laurel Avenue and a three-mile section south of Laurel Avenue to the confluence of the Sacramento Bypass. Funding for the section between Star Bend and Laurel Avenue is being sought from the federal government. The remaining three-mile section south of Laurel Avenue has been held up by the state Department of Water Resources which wants an expensive set-back levee there and is refusing funding for slurry walls and other levee repairs. Negotiations continue to resolve this funding issues.

So far the work has cost an estimated \$300 million with the state picking up 77 percent and the local assessment payers paying 23 percent.

## Recology

Well folks, SCTA lost the battle with Recology over whether Recology should pay for cleanup of its green waste processing operation which should have been Recology's responsibility because they did not follow rules laid out by the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board in 2003.

As a result, \$2.75 million will come out of the Regional Waste Management Authority's Rate Stabilization and Capitalization Fund which is funded by we rate payers with a portion of our monthly bills. When our local elected officials

who voted to give this money to Recology were asked if any of them had talked with the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board, the answer was "no" -- they got their information from Recology.

## About SCTA

SCTA has been looking out for Sutter County taxpayers for about half a century. Dedicated locals have done the sometimes boring, sometimes troubling, often difficult job of trying to keep tabs on the way our elected officials treat their mandate to serve the citizens in a cost-effective way. It hasn't been easy! We would value your help. We urge you to join our efforts.

Recognizing that the growth of government and the increasing cost of government tend to infringe on both freedom and economic independence, SCTA fulfills a critical role as "watch-dog" over these trends. Current officers are Pat Miller, president; Bob Mackensen, vice president; Jerrie Libby, secretary; and Elaine Miles, treasurer. Board meetings are the second and fourth Mondays of the month with an annual membership meeting in the fall. Membership is open to tax paying residents and businesses of Sutter County. Annual dues are \$20 a person, \$30 a couple or \$40 for a business. Help us protect your tax dollars – Join SCTA if you are not already a member.

***HAVE A GREAT  
AUTUMN***