

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE K

Under the California Constitution and Education Code, school districts may issue bonds if approved by at least 55 percent of voters within the boundaries of that district. These bonds are sold to the public and constitute a debt of the district. The principal and interest on the bonds are repaid by an annual property tax levied on all real property within the jurisdiction of the school district. This is known as an “*ad valorem* tax” and is calculated based on the current assessed value of each property.

Measure K was placed on the ballot by The Board of Education (“the Board”) of the Santa Cruz High School District (the “District”). The Board proposes the sale of general obligation bonds in the amount not to exceed \$249,000,000. It is estimated that these bonds would generate approximately \$12 million annually for the District.

As limited by law, the funds from the sale of these bonds shall only be used for specific purposes related to the school site facilities, buildings, and classrooms. The law does not allow these bond funds to be used for teacher and administrator salaries or operational expenses.

The District has submitted a Bond Project List included within the full body of the measure. The types of projects funded may include, but are not limited to:

- Removing hazardous materials from school sites and repairing or replacing infrastructure, such as roofs, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems;
- Upgrading older classrooms and labs for career technical education courses for student preparation in health sciences, engineering, and skilled trades;
- Modernizing classrooms, facilities, and technology to support high quality and hands-on instruction in multiple subject areas, including reading, science, engineering, and the arts;
- Constructing affordable rental housing for teachers and staff;
- Improving indoor and outdoor student safety and campus security systems, such as security lighting, cameras, and emergency communication systems; and/or
- Upgrading outdoor learning, physical education, and athletic facilities to support student health, fitness, and safety.

As required by law, the District must follow certain accountability provisions to oversee the funds collected and expended. This includes the establishment of an independent citizens’ oversight committee and the annual completion of independent performance and financial audits.

At the time of filing, the School District has provided the best estimate of the highest tax rate to be levied at approximately \$.03 per \$100 (equivalent to \$30 per \$100,000) of assessed property value per year. The rate levied would begin in fiscal year 2023-24 and be collected through 2053-54.

A “yes” vote on Measure K is a vote to authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$249,000,000 to be financed by an annual property tax.

A “no” vote on Measure K is a vote against the issuance of the proposed bonds.

JASON M. HEATH, COUNTY COUNSEL

By: Ruby Márquez, Chief Assistant County Counsel