



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Yes! on Measure P for Safe Neighborhood Parks

Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Youth and Senior Recreation, Beaches and Wildlife Protection Measure Campaign

What Is Measure P? Measure P will protect our water and our neighborhood parks. This measure simply continues voter-approved, critically-needed funding for LA County and city parks, rivers, natural areas, drinking water supplies, beaches; and youth after-school, job training and gang prevention programs. It renews the historic 1992 measure that brought over \$53 million each year to County and city parks, recreation and open space, filling the gap left by state and federal funding cuts.

Why does LA County need it? The 1992 measure (Prop A) expires in June 2015. Without its continuation, critical funding will be lost. Continued funding will help protect rivers, lakes and bays from toxic pollutants, and improve drinking water supplies during this time of drought. We need Measure P to ensure that LA County and its 88 cities have the necessary, local control of funds to safeguard our County and neighborhood parks, and waterways.

When will it be on the ballot? Measure P will be on the November 4, 2014 ballot and needs a two-thirds vote (66.66%) to pass.

What would the funding be used for? Measure P would bring in over \$53 million each year. Those funds would be used exclusively for protecting our water quality, our local drinking water supplies and natural areas; continuing essential after-school programs, gang and drug prevention and youth job training services; repairing and maintaining our County and city parks (including playground equipment; bathrooms; and water, sewer and gas lines;) recreation and cultural facilities (such as aquariums, zoos and museums).

How exactly would it be divided? The following allocation is specifically spelled out in law:

- 20% to cities and unincorporated areas within the County on an even, per parcel basis
- 15% for County parks, beaches and clean water projects
- 30% for County regional projects for natural area, river, wetland and stream projects
- 10% for underserved communities
- 5% for competitive grants to public and nonprofit agencies
- 15% for maintenance of past Prop A projects
- 5% for administration

Why this year? The current funding expires in 2015. Without continued funding, there will be a crucial gap. Important water conservation opportunities will be gone, critical repairs not made, and program funds lost.

Why do we need to extend Prop A? Over the past 22 years, Prop A greatly improved our quality of life, but we have new challenges brought on by the drought, increasing amounts of toxic pollutants (such as arsenic and heavy metals) flowing into waterways and onto our beaches; critically needed safety repairs to aging buildings and equipment, and ongoing maintenance and programming needs. The County Board of Supervisors has declared that we have serious unmet needs for our park and recreation facilities as well as positive alternatives for at-risk youth. We also now have unique opportunities to advance water conservation and protection projects.

How much will it cost me? This flat assessment is \$23 for each parcel of land in LA County.

How long will this last? This fund is required by law to expire after 30 years.

Why am I just now hearing about Measure P? It was only referred to the ballot mid-August by the Board of Supervisors, just before the deadline.

Who administers the Measure P funds? The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, the same entity that has responsibly administered Measure A funds for the past 22 years. Independent financial audits have consistently found the District to have used the funds efficiently, effectively and as promised.

How much is going to be spent on administrative costs? Administrative costs are limited to 5% by law.

How can we be sure the funds will be used responsibly? The law requires annual independent financial audits and public review of all expenditures, providing transparent and strong accountability. All funds are under local control of the County and required to be used locally.

Can these funds be spent on other County uses? No, funds are solely for protecting our local water quality and drinking water sources; continuing essential gang and drug prevention and after-school youth programs, as well as youth job training services; and for repairing and maintaining our County and city parks and recreation, and educational and cultural facilities (such as aquariums, zoos and museums).

What does the public get out of it? Every County resident will benefit from continued funding to protect our water, our parks and recreation centers, and our quality of life.

How do I know it's going to be spent in my neighborhood? Twenty percent (20%) of the funding will be allocated strictly on each city's percentage of the number of parcels in the County, and on each unincorporated area's percentage of the total number of parcels in the County. Another 45% will be divided equally between the five Supervisor Districts to ensure equitable distribution.

How does this affect underserved, park-poor areas? A full 10%, or more than \$5 million/year, of all the funding is dedicated to addressing underserved communities. In other words, parks with the greatest needs will be eligible for this dedicated funding.

How does this connect with the statewide water bond? While a statewide water bond (statewide Prop 1) will make significant improvements to LA County's water supply, we get over 30% of our water from local sources so it's important to protect what's in our backyard. Together, these two measures will fund critical projects and programs to maintain a reliable supply of safe, clean drinking water in our County, and prevent toxic chemicals from polluting local rivers, lakes, beaches and coastal waters. In this time of severe water shortage, Measure P could devote nearly half its funding to project work that can protect our groundwater areas, surface waters, wetlands and beaches. It will enable us to capture and conserve water runoff to increase supply, control toxic chemicals from polluting surface and groundwater systems, provide stream rehabilitation, and protect natural areas and wetlands that allow aquifer recharge and replenishment. This win-win marriage of the statewide Prop 1 and Measure P is a smart, effective solution for LA County residents to protect our water. Additionally, Measure P will improve LA County and its 88 cities eligibility for Prop 1 matching funds that would otherwise go to another county, and could further the amount of funds used on local water-related projects.

What happens if this measure does not pass? Without Prop P, the County and its 88 cities will no longer have the funds needed to repair, maintain and improve its park and recreation facilities. Important programs for at-risk youth will be reduced or discontinued. Without continued funding, we will not be able to expand our local drinking water sources nor protect our rivers, lakes, streams and coastal waters from toxic pollutants that currently dump into our waterways, and allow for important groundwater replenishment. Past investments in parks could crumble if Measure P does not provide funding for ongoing upkeep and maintenance.