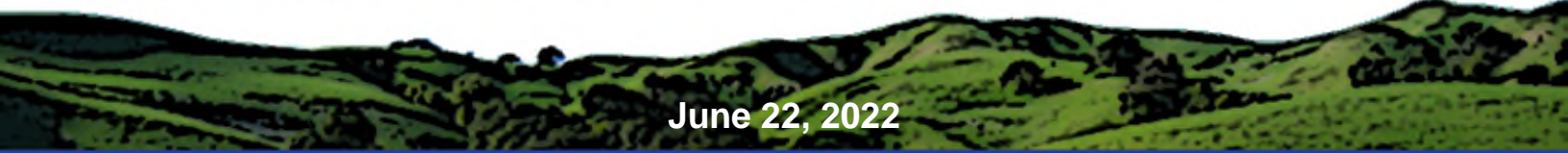




Promoting accountable, cost-effective and efficient government and opposing unnecessary taxes and spending



June 22, 2022

### CoCoTax Proposed November Measures – June 22, 2022

#### The Charter City Measure is Bad Government

Cities that have not adopted a charter are General law cities. They are governed by General state law on municipal affairs. There are 14 general law cities in Contra Costa County. There are 2 Charter cities. A Charter may grant cities supreme authority over municipal affairs. A charter may maximize its local control. The charter may contain a declaration that the city intends to avail itself of the full power provided by the California Constitution. The charter cities may broaden voter power to tax and enact broader tax assessment powers than a general law city. They council may impose business license taxes for any lawful purpose. Charter cities may impose real property transfer taxes for any lawful purpose. The use of funds may have nothing to do with transfers of real property.

A charter may be drafted by the City Council on its own motion or by a committee established by the Council. The amount that may be charged is not minimal. A small percentage of a sale price may be huge. Even though the sale itself will result in an increase in the assessed value of the property and an increase in property tax for the City. The 14 General law cities have a property Transfer Tax Rate of \$0.55 cents per \$1,000 property sale value. The two Contra Costa County Charter cities have a much larger property Transfer Tax Rate. It can be 1) \$12.00 per \$1,000 of property sale value, or 2) .7% of the sale price under \$1 million, progressively escalating as the sales prices increases.

What is the difference? A real property transfer tax on an \$800,000 home in a general law city is \$440. Under the two Charter cities it is \$9,600.00 and \$5,600.00 respectively. These increased taxes are used to increase employee’s salaries and fund public works projects. These general municipal needs should be funded by the entire City population through a sales tax increase so that everyone shares in the cost fairly. The proposed charter city authorized tax impacts on a vulnerable small percent of the population of the city, the aged who can’t care for their home and have to sell, the sick or unhealthy who must move, divorcees who are forced to sell, and single parent mothers who can’t afford the home, and elders on a fixed income. This tax punishes our most vulnerable people in need.

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## State Measure November 2022

### Irrational Plastics Tax Measure

There has been a growing trend to ban disposable items, especially plastic. First, a Legislative measure requiring Cities to fine (punish) businesses using plastics in food containers and utensils. Now a ballot measure to tax the use of plastics. The cited reason is that plastic trash has become a huge problem ending up in the ocean. Obviously, the environmental advocates don't know, or care, that the US does not allow dumping garbage or any waste, solid or liquid, into the oceans. The Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, greatly tightened prior laws. The ocean garbage is from Third World nations using the ocean as their dump. Many take their garbage out on barges to dump it. If the government would address the real source of the problem they could apply pressure where it's needed. This is not a US problem. Taxing consumers and punishing businesses for problems caused by other nations does not address or solve the problems and is irrational. Instead of addressing the real source of the problem, they have us taxing forks, utensils, straws & plastic bags

We are also told we can "live" without! But why? Consider, stores cannot give you a paper bag, but they will give a paper receipt, they can sell you a paper book, a newspaper or even toilet paper. Consider further, if we allow such restraints on normal commerce, what will be next? This creeping taxation and punishment is tyrannical.

Join with CoCoTax and OPPOSE the Plastics measure proposed on the November ballot which imposes a tax on products containing plastics. This plastics tax will fall on the consumers. Nearly all products contain plastic. The Sanitary Districts are monitoring the plastics measures. Sanitary districts are getting plastics out of sewers and from clogging the sewer lines and taxpayers are already paying for that. Disposal of plastics that are not recyclable are properly disposed of in our doubled lined landfills.

Taxing plastics won't be a solution to the problem; the tax will not address the problem. Revenues will be used for other government expenses. Our government's focus on taxes as a solution to every problem is misguided. Taxes already permeate everything and don't solve anything. The misguided use of taxes absolutely appalling. Mark Fernwood and James Pezzaglia

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

COCOTAX Breakfast Meeting June 24 at Dennys Concord 7:45 am.

CoCoTax invites you to attend an IN PERSON Breakfast/Board meeting at DENNY'S Restaurant in Concord Friday June 24, 2022 at 7:45 am.

Please register in advance on the CoCoTax website where you can pay online or bring cash or check on Friday morning and pay at the door -\$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

### **Introducing John Burgh, Director, Division 2, Contra Costa Water District.**

John Burgh holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Nortre Dame and Master's degree from University of New Mexico. He is a registered civil engineer and has worked on water and wastewater projects throughout the world during his 42 year career..

Originally appointed to the Board in 2004, John represents Pleasant Hill, Martinez and portions of Concord. His district stretches to Port Costa. He is a 35-year resident of Concord, and currently serves as CCWD's Chair of the Public Information & Conservation Committee. Locally he has participated in the Contra Costa County Historical Society, the Pleasant Hill Rotary Club, and Meals on Wheels.

John will be speaking on issues we face within Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) jurisdiction including current water supply adequacy or lack thereof, effect of drought conditions on water supply, possible rate increases, rebates or enforcement measures to use water more efficiently, and CCWD's major projects, infrastructure investments and financing. This presentation you will want to hear!

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