



**SOUTHERN COACHELLA VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

PO Box 302  
Thermal, CA 92274  
91260 Avenue 66  
Mecca, CA 92254  
760-396-1014 760-329-2507 Fax

**Board of Directors**

Rebecca Broughton, President  
Ann Wells, Vice President  
Arturo Arredondo  
Eugene Kitagawa

Glenn Crowson, General Mgr.  
Steve Quintanilla, Attorney  
Rodney Vigue, Chief of Police

Dear Southern Coachella Valley Community Services District Voter:

On August 24, 2010, the Southern Coachella Valley Community Services District is conducting an election on whether to increase the special tax imposed on property owners to fund supplemental law enforcement services in the District. All ballots will be cast by mail-in. There will be no polling places.

Envelopes are provided for mailed ballot return. Ballots may also be dropped off on any day at the Registrar of Voters Office at 2724 Gateway Drive, Riverside. All ballots must be received by the Registrar of Voters no later than 8:00 p.m. on August 24, 2010 to be counted. Postmarks are not considered.

If you have any questions please contact:

- General Manager's Office at (760)396-1014 or (760)396-1517
- Registrar of Voters at 1-800-773-VOTE (8683) or (951)486-7200, TTY (951)697-8966

The Southern Coachella Valley Community Services District and Registrar of Voters are dedicated to serving the voters of the Southern Coachella Valley Community Services District and ensuring the integrity and security of the elections process. We look forward to counting your vote with your participation on or before August 24, 2010.

Sincerely,

Glenn Crowson, General Manager  
Southern Coachella Valley Community Services District

SOUTHERN COACHELLA VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
SPECIAL MEASURE MAIL BALLOT ELECTION  
AUGUST 24, 2010



POLLING PLACES **WILL NOT** BE ESTABLISHED FOR THIS ELECTION.  
The enclosed ballot is your **OFFICIAL BALLOT** for this election.

**VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

Your voted ballot must be in the possession of the Registrar of Voters no later than 8:00 p.m. on August 24, 2010. Postmarks are not accepted.

1. Use a black ball point pen. **DO NOT use felt tip, red or gel ink.**
  - a. To vote for or against a measure, connect the head and tail of the arrow to the right of the word YES or NO for that measure.
  - b. One line connecting the arrow is preferred.
2. Remove the top stub and place the voted ballot card in the return envelope provided. Please keep the ballot folded the same way as you received it.
  - a. Sign your name and print your address where indicated. **If you fail to sign the envelope your vote cannot be counted;** and
  - b. Seal the envelope.
3. Return your ballot:
  - a. By mail:
    - A postage-paid envelope is provided to conveniently return your ballot by mail. Since this is a mail ballot election there are **no established polling places**. Voters temporarily residing outside of the territorial limits of the United States must add postage appropriate for their current location.
  - b. In Person to:
    - The Registrar of Voters office during regular business hours and until close of polls on Election Day. For your convenience the Registrar's office has a locked drop box at its entry for ballot drop off 24 hours a day.
  - c. You may verify that the Registrar of Voters has received your voted ballot by checking the return status online at [www.voteinfo.net](http://www.voteinfo.net).

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- **UNABLE TO RETURN YOUR BALLOT PERSONALLY?** State law allows you to authorize your spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister or a person residing in the same household to return your ballot for you. You and your designated representative must complete the authorization statement on the enclosed return envelope.
- **SPOILED YOUR BALLOT?** Place the ballot card in the enclosed return envelope, place a check mark in the spoiled box on the return envelope and return it to our office. A new ballot will be sent to you if there is sufficient time to do so. If there is not sufficient time to return your ballot and receive another by mail, you may return your ballot personally to the Registrar of Voters office or call for further instructions at (951) 486-7200 or 1-800-773-8683.
- **ACCESSIBLE VOTING UNIT.** An Accessible Voting Unit is available upon request at the Registrar of Voters office.
- **CLOSE OF REGISTRATION.** The last day to register to vote for this election is August 9, 2010.

Statements made on the following pages represent the views of the authors and are not endorsed by the County of Riverside. Internet web site addresses included in any statements are provided by the authors. The County of Riverside assumes no liability for the accuracy or content of web sites listed therein. Arguments in support of or in opposition to the ballot measures are opinions of the authors. The text, grammar, and spelling are as submitted by the authors.

**HOW TO MARK YOUR PAPER BALLOT**

- Connect the head and tail of the arrow that points to your choice, like the example provided, also check both front and back of ballot for voting contests
- Use a black ball point pen. Do not use felt tip, red or gel ink
- One line connecting the arrow is preferred
- Please keep the ballot folded the same way as you received it

**TO MARK YOUR VOTE  
DRAW A LINE**



**VOTE!!!**

For a demonstration on marking your ballot visit [www.voteinfo.net](http://www.voteinfo.net)

PARA ESPAÑOL LEA EL OTRO LADO

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE "J"

AN ORDINANCE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTHERN COACHELLA VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT INCREASING THE SPECIAL TAX ON REAL PROPERTY FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES



**WHEREAS**, the Southern Coachella Valley Community Services District ("District") currently collects an annual special tax to defray the costs of providing supplemental law enforcement for certain unincorporated areas, which include the unincorporated communities of Thermal, Oasis, Mecca and Vista Santa Rosa; and

**WHEREAS**, the current assessment of \$1.00 per acre, (\$20.00 minimum regardless of acreage) plus the special tax of \$66.00 per residential habitable unit and \$88.00 per commercial unit have not been increased since the District's formation in 1986; and .

**WHEREAS**, the People of the District have approved Measure "J" to increase the special tax per residential habitable unit and the special tax per commercial unit charged for supplemental law enforcement services.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTHERN COACHELLA VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Levy of Special Tax.**

The annual special tax shall be increased from an amount of \$66.00 to \$85.00 for each residential habitable unit located within the District and from an amount of \$88.00 to \$110.00 for each commercial unit located within the District, except where the subject real property is otherwise exempt from taxation by law or by this Ordinance; however, nothing herein shall preclude anyone subject to a possessory interest on such property from being subject to the tax hereunder. All property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which *ad valorem* property taxes are not levied in any year shall also be exempt from the special tax in such year. The tax itself shall not be levied on parcels on an *ad valorem* basis. The current charge imposed by the District of \$1.00 per acre (\$20.00 minimum regardless of acreage) shall remain in effect and unchanged.

**Section 2. Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall take effect as of the day following the election, upon certification by the Riverside County Registrar of Voters and/or the Board of Trustees that the election results evidence the approval of this Ordinance by at least two-thirds of the registered voters voting hereon.

**Section 3. Annual Increase.**

The special tax imposed herein shall be subject to an annual adjustment equal to the cumulative percentage increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for all Consumers (CPI-U) for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County California Standard Metropolitan Statistical area (Index) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. However, this increase shall not take effect until two years after the effective date of this special tax.

**Section 4. Collection; Notice.**

The special tax imposed herein shall be collected by the Tax Collector of Riverside County at the same time and in the same manner as other charges and taxes collected by the County on behalf of the District and shall become a lien upon the properties against which the tax is assessed. Insofar as is feasible, all laws and procedures regarding exemptions, due dates, installment payments, corrections, calculations, refunds, late payments, penalties, liens and collections for secured roll property taxes shall be applicable to the collection of said special tax. The County shall be entitled to deduct its reasonable costs incurred in collecting the special tax before the balance of the tax is remitted to the District. The secured roll tax bills shall be the only notices required for any special tax levied.

**Section 5. Administrative Procedures.**

The Board shall administer an administrative procedure for receiving and hearing protests and written objections to the tax imposed herein.

**Section 6. Claim Procedures.**

A. With respect to all general property tax issues and billing matters within its jurisdiction, the County Tax Assessor or other appropriate County tax official shall make all final determinations of tax exemption or relief for any reason, and that decision shall be final and binding. However, with respect to matters specific to the levy of the special tax, the decisions of the District shall be final and binding.

B. Whether any particular claim is to be resolved by the District or by the County shall be determined by the District, in coordination with the County as necessary.

C. A claim presented to the District for a refund of the special tax shall comply with the following and any additional procedures as established by the Board:

1. All claims shall be filed with the General Manager no later than one year after the date the tax was paid. The claimant shall file the claim within this time period and the claim shall be finally acted upon the Board as a prerequisite to bringing suit thereon.

2. The procedure described herein, and any additional procedures established by the Board, shall be the exclusive claims procedure for claimants seeking a refund, reduction, or re-computation of the special tax.

**Section 7. Commencement; Duration.**

The authorization to levy the special tax imposed herein shall commence with the fiscal year 2011-2012, beginning July 1, 2011.

**Section 8. Appropriations Limit.**

The District's appropriations limit shall be increased beginning with the fiscal year 2012-2013 and shall be adjusted periodically by the aggregate sum collected by levy of the special tax.

**Section 9. Use of Funds.**

Pursuant to Government Code section 50075.1(a), the proceeds of the special tax shall be applied only for the purpose of providing supplemental law enforcement services within the District and any incidental expenses relating thereto, including expenses related to the collection of the special tax. For purposes of this Ordinance, supplemental law enforcement services shall include those relating to agricultural crime, graffiti abatement, sobriety checkpoints, illegal dumping, and code enforcement. Any unexpended funds raised by the levy of the special tax that remain at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried over to be used for the same law enforcement purposes in the next fiscal year.

**Section 10. Separate Account Required.**

Pursuant to Government Code section 50075.1(b), the District shall create a separate account into which the proceeds of the special tax imposed herein shall be deposited.

**Section 11. Accountability.**

While the special tax is in effect, no later than January 1 of each year, the District shall prepare and file with the Board a report detailing the amount of funds collected and expended, and the status of any project authorized to be funded by this measure.

**Section 12. Authority to Decrease or Eliminate Tax.**

Unless otherwise specifically provided in this Ordinance, nothing in this Ordinance shall give the Board the authority to increase the special tax levied hereunder without a confirming vote of at least two-thirds of the voters in the District voting on such proposal. However, nothing herein shall prevent the Board from lowering or eliminating the tax upon a majority of its own vote after notice and hearing on such proposal.

**Section 13. Severability.**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall nonetheless remain in full force and effect. The People hereby declare that they would have adopted each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions of this Ordinance be declared invalid or unenforceable.

**Section 14. Execution.**

The President of the Board of Directors is hereby authorized to attest to the adoption of this Ordinance by the voters of the District by signing where indicated below.

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**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE "J"**

The Board of Directors ("Board") of the Southern Coachella Valley Community Services District ("District") has, by adopting Resolution No. 2010-02 ("Resolution"), elected to call a special election of the voters of the District to request authorization to increase the special tax currently imposed on all residential and commercial units within the District.

The District currently collects an annual assessment and special tax which are used to pay for the costs of supplemental law enforcement services for the unincorporated communities of Thermal, Oasis, Mecca and Vista Santa Rosa.

As provided in Resolution No. 2010-02, the District Board has determined that District revenues are inadequate to permit the District to sustain the current level of supplemental law enforcement services for the unincorporated communities of Thermal, Oasis, Mecca and Vista Santa Rosa.

The current annual assessment is \$1.00 per acre (\$20.00 minimum regardless of acreage) and has not been increased since 1986. This annual assessment will remain unchanged.

The current special tax is \$66.00 per residential habitable unit and \$88.00 per commercial unit and has not been increased since 1986.

The adoption of this Measure would allow a one-time increase in the special assessment to \$85.00 per residential habitable unit and \$110.00 per commercial unit. The adoption of this Measure would thereafter allow yearly increases in the special tax equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index for all Consumers for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County California Standard Metropolitan Statistical area published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.

The Board of the District has called this election for the purpose of submitting this Measure to the voters of the District. For this Measure to be approved, two-thirds of the voters voting on the Measure must vote yes.

A "Yes" vote on Measure "J" is a vote to allow the District a one-time increase in the current special tax from \$66.00 per residential habitable unit and \$88.00 per commercial unit to \$85.00 per residential habitable unit and \$110.00 per commercial unit effective fiscal year 2011-2012 for the purpose of raising additional revenue for the District to fund supplemental law enforcement services for the unincorporated communities of Thermal, Oasis, Mecca and Vista Santa Rosa. A "Yes" vote on Measure "J" is also a vote to allow, beginning in fiscal year 2013-2014, an annual increase equal to the Consumer Price Index for all Consumers for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County California Standard Metropolitan Statistical area published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.

A "No" vote on Measure "J" is a vote against a one-time increase in the current special assessment and an annual increase equal to the Consumer Price Index.

By: Dana M. Smith  
Deputy County Counsel

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE "J"**

Twenty five years ago, the people of Thermal, Oasis, Mecca and Vista Santa Rosa took matters into their own hands by forming this special district to provide additional police protection. We do not want the past quarter of a century to be wasted by not bringing the funding up to current standards. Don't be misled. Measure "J" will fund additional police officers. As our communities continue to grow, we need to protect ourselves, our children and our neighbors from drug dealers, gang-bangers, thieves, and sex offenders. Growth has not stopped in our area. New schools, new housing and bigger populations continue to place a large burden on law enforcement. By bringing the funding of the District up to current rates, the District plans on adding more deputies, developing a local agricultural crime program, and working with the school district to increase school/law enforcement activities.

A yes vote on Measure "J" will ensure that this increased presence of law enforcement officers will be ongoing and effective. To protect our neighborhoods from the fear of criminals and illegal activities is worth these small added costs. For a residential house within the District, this added cost will factor out to \$1.58 more per month. This is a small price to pay for the safety of our families. The District's Team of law enforcement officers are highly trained and motivated. They are assigned to work within the District boundaries. All revenue generated from this Measure will be used for law enforcement personnel and related equipment for the District's Team.

Continue our supplemental law enforcement program by allowing this measure to fund the District's crime fighting activities. A yes vote on Measure "J" will save lives and property.

By: Alejandro Ureste  
Rebecca Broughton  
Marco Celedon  
Sergio Meza  
Sergio Duran

**NO ARGUMENT WAS FILED AGAINST MEASURE "J"**

