

Official Ballot Guide Text for 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative

Proposed Ballot Guide Design:

11" x 17", or larger

Two-sided

Four Color

Fold down to 5.5" by 8.5" (although other folding options will be considered)

Included in Envelope with Ballot and Return Envelope (the property owner name and proposed fee amount will be printed on the ballot)

**Main informational sections will be uniform
with localized project lists and photographs for West County, Lamorinda, North/Central County,
South/Central County, and East County.**

(include logo and consistent design with other informational mailers)
Contra Costa Clean Water Program

2012 Community Clean Water Initiative Ballot Guide

**** Section A *******

Why Did You Receive This Ballot Guide and Official Ballot?

This ballot guide provides information regarding clean water and water pollution control services in Contra Costa County and a proposed new Clean Water fee that will:

- Protect local sources of clean drinking water from contamination and pollution
- Remove harmful and dangerous pollutants, toxic chemicals, and potentially infectious bacteria and viruses from our local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, and the Delta and the Bay
- Capture, clean and use rainwater to irrigate local parks and landscaping. This “rainwater harvesting” will also decrease the impacts of polluted stormwater and urban runoff on our local creeks, lakes, reservoirs and bays
- Prevent illegal or toxic discharges from industrial and commercial properties
- Provide other clean water and pollution control services and facilities required by Federal and State clean water regulations
- Keep trash and pollution off our shorelines and out of our local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, and the Delta and the Bay

The official ballot included with this ballot guide allows property owners to decide on this proposed “2012 Community Clean Water Initiative”. Please read the information in this ballot guide and call the Clean Water Program at 925-313-2360 if you have any additional questions. Then complete the official ballot to vote on this proposal. Your returned official ballot is important because it will help decide if the proposed Clean Water fee is established and the proposed clean water and pollution control services and facilities are provided.

****Section B*******

Protecting Clean Water

Each year, tons of harmful and dangerous pollutants, bacteria and trash are carried through our neighborhoods and enter local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, and the Delta and the Bay. As water drains from streets, parking lots, and lawns, pollutants are picked up and enter the drainage system through thousands of catch basins throughout Contra Costa County. From there, this polluted water

flows through a massive system of pipes, open channels and creeks straight into the Delta and the Bay.

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is working with all 19 of the incorporated cities and towns in the County, and Contra Costa County, in a cooperative effort to prevent water pollution known as the Contra Costa Clean Water Program ("Clean Water Program"). But much more needs to be done to protect and improve our water quality. Also, new State and Federal clean water standards mean that local communities could be forced to pay large fines if our local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, and the Delta and the Bay are not cleaned up. As a result, the Clean Water Program is proposing the 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative to improve local water quality and protect our communities from toxic and dangerous pollutants.

FISCAL CONTROLS ARE REQUIRED. The 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative will include strict fiscal safeguards, including an Independent Citizens Oversight Committee, mandatory annual audits and a requirement that all revenue stay within the local community where it is generated. None of the funding can go to Sacramento or be used for other programs.

**** Section C*******

Information About Your Proposed Clean Water Fee

The proposed annual Clean Water fee for your property is printed on the official ballot included with this ballot guide. The total amount that would be raised County-wide by the proposed 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative for fiscal year 2012-13 is approximately \$8,758,148. The proposed Clean Water fee is based on the cost of clean water and pollution control services and facilities needed to improve water quality and comply with federal and state mandates. The proposed Clean Water fee is calculated based on the average impervious surface (surfaces not permeable by water, such as driveways, pavement and buildings) for properties of different types and sizes. For example, properties with large impervious areas send more polluted water into the storm drain system than property types without impervious surfaces, such as open space.

The proposed annual Clean Water fee can only be increased by the consumer price index, or two percent, whichever is less. This will help ensure that Clean Water fee revenues keep pace with the cost of operating and maintaining our clean water and water pollution control services and facilities in future years. More information on the proposed Clean Water fee is included in the Fee Report approved by the Board on December 6, 2012. Contact the Contra Costa Clean Water Program for a copy of this report. Moreover, if approved, the Clean Water fee will be levied annually for a period not to exceed 10 years.

To be tabulated, Clean Water fee ballots MUST be received by Friday, April 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

You may return your ballot in the following ways:

A) Mail your ballot to the address shown on the enclosed ballot return envelope so that it is received on or before April 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

B) Hand-deliver your ballot to the Clerk of the Board of the Contra Costa County Supervisors at 651 Pine Street, 1st Floor, Room 106, Martinez, California so that it is received on or before April 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

**** Section D *******

Strict Fiscal Safeguards

The proposed 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative includes strict fiscal safeguards to ensure that the proceeds are used only for local clean water and pollution control services:

- All funds shall ONLY be used for local clean water and pollution control services in your community
- 100% of all funding received will be used in the community where it was generated (*i.e. 100% Return-to-Source*)
- An Independent Citizens Oversight Committee will ensure all funds are spent properly
- Mandatory Annual Audits
- The Clean Water fee will expire after 10 years

**** Section E *******

What Is Polluted Water Runoff?

Water runoff pollution is the untreated, contaminated water that drains from streets and other surfaces throughout Contra Costa County into the storm drain system. This polluted runoff drains into our local creeks, reservoirs, lakes and eventually into the Delta and the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. Pollutants in this runoff include:

- Trash: Cigarette butts, plastic, fast-food wrappers, and bottles
- Toxins: Motor oil, PCBs, antifreeze, fertilizer, and pesticides
- Microbes: Dangerous bacteria, viruses and pet waste
- Heavy metals: Lead, mercury, arsenic, etc.

Pollutants are picked up as water enters the stormwater system through the thousands of catch basins in our community. Unfortunately, much of this polluted runoff is not biodegradable, which reduces the water quality and safety of our creeks, lakes, reservoirs and bays, and can be harmful to humans, fish, and wildlife.

**** Section F *******

Para Ayuda En Español

Este informe contiene información sobre su propuesta iniciativa de agua limpia. Es muy importante que entienda el material. Busque la asistencia de alguien que puede traducirlo para usted.

[Translation: This informational item contains information about the proposed clean water initiative. It is very important you understand the material. Seek the assistance of someone that can translate this for you.]

**** Section G*******

Additional Information

For additional information on the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, its services, the proposed Clean Water fee, the ballot proceeding or to obtain a copy of the Fee Report please contact:

Call: 925-313-2360

Or visit: www.cccleanwater.org

**** Section H*******

Will Any of the Clean Water Fee Revenue Be Used for Other Purposes?

No. The revenue from the proposed Clean Water fee can only be used for local clean water and pollution control services and facilities. These revenues cannot be taken by the Federal or State government, or any other public agency.

**** Section I (Optional):*******

2012 Community Clean Water Initiative

The proposed Community Clean Water Initiative will:

- Protect sources of clean drinking water from contamination and pollution
- Keep trash and pollution out of local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, and the Delta and the Bay
- Prevent illegal discharges through inspections and enforcement actions
- Catch, clean-up, and re-use rainwater
- Remove dangerous pollutants and toxins from water sources

****Section J *******

Balloting Process

If you have questions about the Clean Water fee or the proposed clean water services, lose your official ballot, require a replacement official ballot, need a proportional official ballot so you can vote your share of your property separately from other owners, or want to change your vote, call the Clean Water Program at 925-313-2360. The Clean Water fee shall not be imposed if, upon the conclusion of the tabulation, official ballots submitted in opposition to the Clean Water Fee exceed the official ballots submitted in favor of the fee.

**** Section K *******

Ballot Confidentiality

Property owner names and corresponding votes will remain strictly confidential, except as necessary to count the votes or as may be required by California law.

**** Section L *******

Please Return Your Ballot Before Friday, April 6

To be tabulated, Clean Water Fee ballots MUST be received by Friday, April 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

**** Section M – 5 Different Versions *******

- **Local Clean Water Projects in Crockett, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Hercules, Kensington, Richmond, Rodeo, San Pablo and other West County Communities**
- **Local Clean Water Projects in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda**
- **Local Clean Water Projects in Clayton, Concord, Martinez, Pacheco, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek and other North/Central County Communities**
- **Local Clean Water Projects in Alamo, Blackhawk, Danville, Diablo and San Ramon**
- **Local Clean Water Projects in Antioch, Bay Point, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, Oakley and other East County Communities**

The 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative **REQUIRES** that all funds raised from *(list communities)* be used for local clean water and pollution control services and projects only in those same *(specify communities)*.

If this measure is approved, services and projects in your area would benefit the following local creeks and water-bodies:

West County:

- Baxter Creek
- Cerrito Creek
- Garrity Creek
- Hilltop Lake
- Jewel Lake
- Maloney Reservoir
- North Reservoir
- Pinole Creek
- Point Pinole
- Refugio Creek

- Rheem Creek
- Rodeo Creek
- San Francisco Bay
- San Francisco Bay Shorelines and Wetlands
- San Pablo Bay
- San Pablo Bay Shorelines and Wetlands
- San Pablo Reservoir
- Summit Reservoir
- Wildcat Creek

Lamorinda:

- Briones Reservoir
- Cerrito Creek
- Grizzly Creek
- Happy Valley Creek
- Hidden Valley Creek
- Lafayette Creek
- Lafayette Reservoir
- Laguna Creek
- Lake Cascade
- Las Trampas Creek
- Moraga Creek
- Reliez Creek
- San Pablo Creek
- San Pablo Reservoir

North/Central

- Alhambra Creek
- Briones Reservoir
- Carquinez Shorelines
- Franklin Creek
- Galindo Creek
- Grayson Creek
- Heather Farms Lake (confirm name)
- Indian Creek
- Kirker Creek
- Las Trampas Creek
- Los Vaqueros Reservoir
- Mallard Reservoir
- Martinez Reservoir

- Mitchell Creek
- Mount Diablo Creek
- Pacheco Creek
- Peyton Slough
- Pine Creek
- Sacramento River and Shorelines
- Suisun Bay
- Suisun Bay Shorelines and Wetlands
- Tice Creek
- Walnut Creek
- Willow Creek

South County:

- Alamo Creek
- Bollinger Canyon Creek
- Coyote Creek
- Green Valley Creek
- Norris Creek
- Oak Creek
- San Ramon Creek
- Sycamore Creek
- Tassajara Creek

East County:

- Antioch Reservoir
- Contra Loma Reservoir
- Deer Creek
- The Delta
- East Antioch Creek
- Lake Alhambra
- Los Vaqueros Reservoir
- Marsh Creek
- Marsh Creek Reservoir
- Markley Canyon Creek
- San Joaquin River and Shorelines
- Sand Creek
- West Antioch Creek

