

October, 2008

To the Editor of the San Diego Union-Tribune

The San Diego League of Women Voters (LWV) recently issued its "Election Extra," an objective pro/con analysis of local propositions on the November 4 ballot, which includes an analysis of Prop B, the "Marine Freight Preservation and Bayfront Redevelopment Initiative." Based on League positions, we are recommending that voters say NO to Prop B.

Several other respected groups and individuals have come to the same conclusion. The basis for LWV opposition includes the following objections:

- Prop B exemplifies the perilous downside of planning by initiative. While the LWV stands behind the rights of individuals to gather signatures for ballot propositions, we cannot support a ballot measure that does an end-run around the rights of San Diegans to an open, public planning process when significant changes to the Port District's adopted Master Plan are proposed.
- The lack of realistic, reliable details about proposed changes to the Tenth Avenue Terminal and the lack of adequate analyses of economic, environmental, and national security impacts deny voters the essential information needed for informed decisions.
- Under Prop B, new revenues generated by the development project could be plowed back into the development project instead of being shared among Port cities, violating the established practice in the Port Master Plan to serve the greater public interest.

Our bottom line: Prop B is the wrong way to do the public's business.

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