

Council Meeting of
March 17, 2008

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Report of Ad Hoc Committee to Review Addition of Utility User's Tax
Ballot Initiative**

RECOMMENDATION

Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Addition of a Ballot Initiative on Utility User's Tax recommends that City Council approve a ballot argument in favor of the measure to ratify the Utility User's Tax be added to the June 3, 2008 general municipal election

Funding

N/A

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

At the Torrance City Council meeting of March 4, 2008, the Council designated an ad hoc committee of Mayor Scotto, Councilman Nowatka, and Councilman Sutherland to further discuss and determine the language for the argument in support of an initiative pertaining to Utility User's Tax being added to the ballot for the June 3, 2008 election. The ad hoc committee has since met and crafted a ballot argument in favor of the measure. The committee is seeking Council concurrence in submitting the attached argument as crafted and asks for signatures of each member.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
To Review Utility User's Tax Initiative



Mayor Frank Scotto



Councilman Paul Nowatka

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Sutherland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councilman Bill Sutherland

Attachment:

ARGUMENT FOR MEASURE T

To maintain and protect police, fire, street repair, parks, libraries, and recreation services essential to your quality of life, vote **YES on Measure T**:

The FBI ranked Torrance as one of the safest cities in the nation. **Yes on Measure T** keeps our police department strong to maintaining our peace of mind and keeping Torrance's neighborhoods, safe.

Yes on T continues funding for youth programs that serve 26,000 young people in our community. **Yes on T** helps fund anti-gang and anti-drug programs in local schools and youth after-school activities, recreational programs and summer camps to keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.

Measure T is NOT a new tax. It simply continues – with NO increase in tax rate – the existing utility users tax (UUT) that has been in place since 1972. To keep pace with technology advances, the City must modernize and ratify its UUT – closing loopholes to include technology that didn't exist in the 1960's. **Measure T** simply replaces outdated language in order to protect the City's UUT revenue from changes in future rulings or regulations.

Yes on T protects \$6 - \$8 Million in revenues that fund essential public safety and other vital City services. Without **Yes on T**, the City may have no choice but to cut services or increase fees for service.

Yes on T retains existing exemptions, so low income seniors and disabled do not have to pay. Every penny generated, is legally required to stay in Torrance – and can not be taken by Sacramento politicians.

All **Yes on T** revenue is subject to independent financial audits available for public review.

Vote **YES on Measure T** - - The Torrance City Council voted unanimously to place **Measure T** on the ballot because it keeps you safe and protects the quality of life for us all.

Paragraph	TEXT	WORDS	FORMATTED
1	To maintain and protect police, fire, street repair, parks, libraries, and recreation services essential to your quality of life, vote YES on Measure T :	24	Bold 4 CAP 1
2	The FBI ranked Torrance as one of the safest cities in the nation. Yes on Measure T keeps our police department strong to maintaining our peace of mind and keeping Torrance's neighborhoods, safe.	33	Bold 4
3	Yes on T continues funding for youth programs that serve 26,000 young people in our community. Yes on T helps fund anti-gang and anti-drug programs in local schools and youth after-school activities, recreational programs and summer camps to keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.	47	Bold 6
4	Measure T is NOT a new tax. It simply continues – with NO increase in tax rate – the existing utility users tax (UUT) that has been in place since 1972. To keep pace with technology advances, the City must modernize and ratify its UUT – closing loopholes to include technology that didn't exist in the 1960's. Measure T simply replaces outdated language in order to protect the City's UUT revenue from changes in future rulings or regulations.	59	CAP 5 Bold 2
5	Yes on T protects \$6 - \$8 Million in revenues that fund essential public safety and other vital City services. Without Yes on T, the City may have no choice but to cut services or increase fees for service.	38	
6	Yes on T retains existing exemptions, so low income seniors and disabled do not have to pay. Every penny generated, is legally required to stay in Torrance – and can not be taken by Sacramento politicians.	35	
7	All Yes on T revenue is subject to independent financial audits available for public review.	15	Bold 3
8	Vote YES on Measure T - The Torrance City Council voted unanimously to place Measure T on the ballot because it keeps you safe and protects the quality of life for us all.	32	Bold 4 CAP 1
TOTAL		299	30