ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE D

A YES vote on Measure D maintains our present fire and emergency services while also saving the City money.

A YES vote continues the exceptional level of fire protection we have enjoyed for the past seven years -- including a Fire Department with 50 firefighters and paramedics staffing three fire stations positioned to respond to Sausalito emergencies. If Sausalito instead chose to re-establish its own Fire Department, there would be a maximum of only five firefighters on duty, requiring calls for aid from outside agencies operating under different command and control.

AYES vote validates seven years of experience, critical analysis, good-faith negotiations, and thoughtful planning. This includes more than 20 public meetings, four community workshops, advice from independent consultants, and approvals from three governing boards: LAFCO, the Southern Marin Fire Protection District Board of Directors, and the Sausalito City Council -- all concluding that annexation simply makes sense.

By voting YES on D, Sausalito property tax allocations for fire protection will be reduced from 55% to 45%. Estimated overall savings in the City's 2012-13 budget will be $184,000. At the same time, Sausalito would own its new fire station, collect $100,000 a year rent from Southern Marin Fire and retain use of the community meeting room and Sausalito's Emergency Operations Center. Vehicles and equipment would be transferred to the District, freeing up $1.2 million in vehicle replacement funds to pay down other City costs.

On the other hand, reverting to a stand-alone fire department would add $1.4 million to the City's budget, leading to either massive cuts in other services or a $400 parcel tax.

After seven years of study, it's time to move our fire services forward. Please vote YES on Measure D for the best fire protection, maximum public safety, and significant financial savings.

Carol Singer Peltz
Former Mayor

Leon Huntting
Former City Council Member

Ann Arnott

Susan Frank

Jackie Kudler