

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE E-20

The proposed increase in Morro Bay's sales tax adds an additional burden to our local residents and small businesses, all of whom are struggling to stay afloat in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Although the proposal is called a "Local Recovery-Emergency-Preparedness Measure," it was first introduced pre-COVID. Although labeled "Recovery," it is proposed as a **permanent** tax increase with no ending date. The City Council's proposed user sales tax increases from .5% to 1.5% per dollar. **This is a 200% tax increase.**
2. Our small businesses are experiencing hard times due the pandemic. Any tax increase that adds to the cost for their customers will impact sales. Our small businesses are vital to Morro Bay's future. We need to help them not burden them.
3. The residents of Morro Bay are already subject to large increases in utility rates, most notably the increase in sewer/water bills. For example, 300% sewer/water since 2015, and garbage increase 20.5% just this year.

Please vote "No" on the proposed sales tax increase

4. The current mayor and city council have not properly managed the income to the City. An example of their wasteful spending is this ballot measure: paying consultants \$85,000 to help get this sales tax increase passed.
5. A better alternative to a sales tax increase is requiring our city manager to cut the overall General Fund budget by 10%, in addition to cuts already made. A better, long term plan will provide a long term fix to the City's economic woes and preserve our First Responders.

Please vote "No" on the proposed sales tax increase

John Weiss, Candidate for Mayor

Richard E.T. Sadowski, Candidate for City Council

Dan Sedley, Co-Chairperson for Citizens for Affordable Living