City Attorney's Impartial Analysis of Measure M

Measure M was placed on the June 5, 2018, Special Municipal Election ballot by unanimous vote of the City Council. If adopted, this measure will permanently extend the existing 8% Utility User Tax ("UUT").

The UUT is a general tax on utility (telephone, cellular, electricity, gas, sewer, water, and cable television) charges to Rialto businesses and residents. This measure preserves current exemptions for individuals 65 years of age or older and members of very low income households, as defined by California Health & Safety Code Section 50105.

Unless extended by this measure, the UUT will expire on June 30, 2018.

The UUT provides approximately $14 million per year to support public services. Historically, the UUT has accounted for approximately 20% of the City's General Fund revenue and has been the City's largest single revenue source. Without the UUT, the City will experience reductions to public safety (*e.g.*, police and fire), recreation, public works, and other core governmental services. The City may also delay capital improvement projects, including fire stations, road repairs, and park improvements. Public safety expenses represent approximately 65% of all City operating expenditures.

The people of the City of Rialto have the exclusive authority to extend the UUT under the California Constitution. Therefore, the Rialto City Council does not have the authority to extend this tax, without submitting the measure to the voters of the City of Rialto.

A "**Yes**" vote means you approve the permanent extension of the UUT. A "**No**" vote means you disapprove the permanent extension of the UUT. This ballot measure would take effect only if a majority of those voting cast a "Yes" vote for it at the June 5, 2018, election.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure M. If you desire a copy of Measure M, please call the City Clerk at (909) 820-2519. A copy will be provided at no cost.

Dated: March 13, 2018

Fred Galante, City Attorney

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