

Friends of Puna's Future

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Date: Jan. 19. 2010

To: CoH Charter Commission

Subject: In favor of CA-15

We respect and appreciate the intention of the Charter Commission to move CA-15 forward to the voters and that the modification from 2% to 0.5%, if approved in November, would place a "floor" of 1/2% under the Land Preservation Fund in a durable way.

We have heard elected officials (Guy Enriques for example) ask publicly if the 2% Land Fund which passed in 2006 would pass in 2010 considering the change in circumstance in our county's finances. By approving CA-15 for the ballot that question can be answered. We do encourage you to approve CA-15.

It would be our preference that the voters be asked to re-endorse the original premiss of 2%. Despite the argument from the Department of Finance for "flexibility" if we had to make a decision on asking the voters to reconsider the 2% Land Fund or to consider a different, new proposal we think that changing the amount funded will cause a high degree of confusion.

Believe me, FoPF understands that CA-15 as written does in no way prevent the county from setting aside 2% or 3% or 5%. The half percent is a minimum. We know that. As a minimum we think 0.5% it is too low and should at least double but the heart and soul of our testimony here is that by the hands and hearts of the community in 2006 the 2% Land Fund was passed into law. The 2% Land Fund is a known and understood entity. It does not at this time require further introduction. The 2% Land Fund has a familiar face. CA-15 as a 0.5% Land Fund will be a puzzling befuddlement. Voters will ask and wonder, as people do now: How did 2% become 0.5%? Is \$1 million enough money to feel like a meaningful effort to preserve cultural, ocean and mountain access is underway? Who is fiddling with the dials?

You Commissioners will know that the recalculated Land Fund is intended to be a base amount. The Director of Finance will know this. FoPF will know this. The voters will not.

FoPF supports approval of CA-15 in it's original title and capacity.

Sincerely, Rob Tucker, president