IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE

The California Constitution and state law authorize school districts to levy qualified special taxes for specified purposes. Government Code Section 50077 provides that such a tax measure passes if two-thirds of those voting vote in favor of it.

The Portola Valley School District (the “District”) has parcel taxes approved in 2004 and 2010 that collectively impose a tax of $458 per parcel per year. These taxes expire June 30, 2014. By this measure, the District’s Board of Trustees proposes to levy a replacement parcel tax for eight years, beginning July 1, 2013. This proposed tax would be $581 per year per parcel on taxable parcels in the District. If this measure is approved, the current $458 tax would cease one year early on June 30, 2013.

The proposed tax applies to parcels of land in the District that receive a bill for property taxes from San Mateo County. Any property owner who resides in a single family residence and is either (1) aged 65 years or older or (2) receives Supplemental Security Income for a disability may apply annually for an exemption from the tax. The owner of contiguous parcels held under identical ownership which are used solely for owner-occupied single-family residences may apply annually to have the parcels taxed as a single parcel. All property which is otherwise exempt from or on which is levied no ad valorem property taxes will also be exempt from the proposed tax.

The stated purposes of the tax are to: maintain quality math, science, reading, and writing instruction; develop advanced programs in engineering and technology; keep class sizes small; and support art and music programs. The tax proceeds may be used only for these purposes.

The proceeds of the parcel tax would be placed into a special account. An annual report accounting for parcel tax revenues collected and expended and the status of projects funded by the tax would be filed with the Board of Trustees.

A “yes” vote on this measure would allow a tax of $581 per year per taxable parcel to be levied on property within the District for a period of eight years beginning July 1, 2013, for the purposes stated above.

A “no” vote on this measure would not allow the parcel tax to be levied, and the current parcel taxes would continue until June 30, 2014.

This measure passes if two-thirds of those voting on it vote “yes.”