

# Memorandum

To: Chairman and Commissioners

Date: November 22, 2004

From: Diane C. Eidam

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INFORMATION

Ref: Report on County Sales Tax Measures

## Discussion:

In the 1980s, local transportation sales taxes could be passed by a majority vote. In 1995, the state Supreme Court held that California's Constitution requires local sales taxes for transportation to be passed by a two-thirds vote, because they are "special taxes" devoted to a specific purpose.

In the November 2004 General Election, ten counties sponsored a sales tax measure for transportation purposes. Seven of the ten counties were successful in getting the required two-thirds approval from the voters on their sales tax measure. (All the votes must be audited and certified by November 30, 2004.)

County	Pass/Fail	Percent Yes (Needed 66.67%)	Estimated Revenues	End Date (years)	New/Extensio n	Percent Sales Tax
Contra Costa	Pass	70.5%	\$ 2.0 billion	2034 (25)	Extension	0.50%
Marin	Pass	71.0%	\$331 million	2025 (20)	New	0.50%
Sacramento	Pass	74.8%	\$ 4.7 billion	2039 (30)	Extension	0.50%
San Bernardino	Pass	79.4%	\$ 6.0 billion	2040 (30)	Extension	0.50%
San Diego	Pass	67.0%	\$14.0 billion	2048 (40)	Extension	0.50%
San Mateo	Pass	75.3%	\$ 1.5 billion	2034 (25)	Extension	0.50%
Sonoma	Pass	67.2%	\$470 million	2025 (20)	New	0.25%
Santa Cruz	Fail	42.8%	---	---	---	---
Solano	Fail	63.8%	---	---	---	---
Ventura	Fail	41.6%	---	---	---	---

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