

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE H

City officials have contended that chlorinated solvents perchloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) were discovered in its groundwater in 1989, both of which are identified as hazardous to human health by state and federal regulators. This issue is still unresolved and is a controversy to the Citizens of Lodi. While City officials claim that the total cost of remediation is not precisely known, it has been insisted by staff to be at \$45.7 million.

City officials instituted a failed and costly "program" of litigation against "responsible parties" to fund remediation. It was eventually established that the City itself was in turn equally responsible for the contamination. This resulted in failure to secure funds for remediation and also incited a costly legal backlash against the City by outside entities.

The City, against popular public opinion and numerous citizens complaints, ultimately entered into a number of inequitable and highly questionable settlements which were (A) unreasonably favorable to the Third parties responsible and (B) by nature in opposition to the general financial welfare of the citizens of Lodi. City officials also accepted an unreasonable recommendation to increase current water rates to pay for the estimated \$45.7 million cost. The City Council then directed a hearing for this matter but excluded water rate paying non-property owners from the political process by only allowing a small portion of the citizenry the right to protest.

It is the People's position that excluding non-property owner rate payers from this process is unconscionable and unethical.

Submitted by:

/s/ Jane Lea

/s/ Dawn C. Squires