

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE J

If we lived in a perfect world there would be no poor in Lodi or any place else. As the opponent of Measure "J" agrees the poor in Lodi must be taken care of. The cost of the ballot proposition before the voters is less than \$1.00 per month for a three-bedroom, two-bath home.

The opponent of the proposition is suggesting a check be written to charity to provide the necessary assistance to offset the monthly support provided through the Low-Income Discount program. This is impractical. To what charity would one write the check? How much? Who would administer the program? Who would screen for eligibility? Who would see the money goes for rate reduction?

The City is in the most efficient position to administer the existing Low-Income Discount program. The eligibility screening is done under a State mandated program. The money goes where it is supposed to go and is easily collected.

The low-income discount does not undermine the need to make charitable contributions. Quite the contrary! Charitable contributions should be made with a generous heart and citizens are encouraged to continue current giving practices.

The right thing to do is continue the existing Low-Income Discount program to provide a reduced water/waste water bill to citizens living at the poverty level. Measure "J" will not increase rates for anyone. Vote "Yes" on Measure "J."

Submitted by:

/s/ Susan Hitchcock, Mayor, City of Lodi
/s/ Larry D. Hansen, Council Member
/s/ JoAnne Mounce, Council Member
/s/ Mark D. Price, Pastor,
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lodi