

MEASURE F
CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

CITY CLERK - HMB
2014 MAR 24 PM 4:42

The City Council of the City of Half Moon Bay has placed Measure F, the "Main Street Bridge Preservation Act" on the June 3, 2014 ballot, along with a competing measure, Measure E, the "Main Street Bridge Safety and Accessibility Act." The measures offer competing visions for the future of the Main Street Bridge.

Measure F is substantively identical to an initiative petition prepared by opponents of the City of Half Moon Bay's proposed project. It seeks to restrict the City of Half Moon Bay from replacing or enlarging the bridge. It would require the City Council to adopt an ordinance amending Half Moon Bay's Local Coastal Program (LCP) and Zoning regulations to prohibit the bridge's demolition or "physical expansion," unless voters approve such an action in another future ballot measure. It would require the City Council to submit the ordinance to the Coastal Commission for certification, and to abide by its provisions pending such certification. Once certified, any amendment or repeal of the ordinance would also require Coastal Commission certification.

Caltrans has given the bridge a safety rating of 24 on a scale of 1-100 under its bridge rating system. It is considered "functionally deficient" because it is narrow by current highway safety standards, lacks shoulders or bike lanes, and is poorly aligned with Main Street at the north end. It is also considered "structurally deficient," with large cracks, separated concrete and corroded metal support brackets all plainly visible from below. In 2011, the City won a federal Highway Bridge Project (HBP) grant that will cover 88% of the cost of rehabilitation or replacement, but grant guidelines specify that funds be used to address both structural and functional deficiencies, and that the resulting structure achieve a safety rating of 80 or above. Since fixing the bridge's functional issues would involve building wider lanes and walkways and improving the alignment, Measure F would restrict the City from using these grant funds without conducting another ballot measure election. Just repairing the bridge, the approach favored by project opponents, does not meet these grant guidelines.

Measure E, the "Main Street Safety and Accessibility Act," would establish, as official City policy, to address both structural and functional safety deficiencies, and to pursue the option that is most cost-effective for local taxpayers, by minimizing expenditure of general fund revenue and maximizing the use of available grant funds.

Measures E and F both contain provisions specifying that, even if both measures are approved by a simple majority of voters (more than 50%), only the measure receiving the larger number of votes will pass.

If Measure F takes effect, then preserving intact the bridge's current "historical, visual and physical integrity (including appearance and character)" would be established by voters as "official policy" of the City of Half Moon Bay.

479 words

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure-F. If you desire a copy of the ordinance, please call the City Clerk's office at 650-726-8271 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you. 17 17

DATED: March 24, 2014

/s/
ANTHONY P. CONDOTTI
City Attorney
City of Half Moon Bay