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CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE U

Measure U is NOT needed. Berkeley has always encouraged resident participation. Everyone already has access to the information that Measure U purports to provide. Berkeley has complied with the requirements of California's Brown Act for decades and has gone further, mandating government transparency with our own 2011 Open Government Ordinance. Measure U adds nothing but layers of bureaucracy.

Is Measure U expensive? The City Manager's cost estimate is \$1 to 2 million per year – or more – depending on how much new litigation results because of Measure U. Given the city's limited resources, how can we justify spending so much on unnecessary requirements that will waste staff time and inevitably delay the performance of essential day-to-day government service?

Will Measure U bring Berkeley to a halt? Not to a halt. But, the many unreasonable requirements placed on public officials and staff will take time away from managing the City's services, projects, and finances effectively and efficiently. The proposed Measure U Commission would exercise authority over all City employees, elected officials, and volunteer board members and commissioners, but would be accountable to no one.

Does Measure U make Berkeley more environmentally friendly? Berkeley has received national recognition for being at the forefront of environmental action. The City Clerk's work plan already includes paperless Council packets in 2013. We don't need Measure U to get us there.

Measure U is expensive, extreme, unnecessary and destructive.

Vote NO on Measure U.

Sherry Smith, President, League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Winston Burton, Chair, Berkeley Board of Library Trustees
Karen Hemphill, Berkeley School Board Director
Loni Hancock, State Senator