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CITY MANAGER

Peter R. Carr

DRAFT OPPOSE LETTER

December 5, 2023

Bismarck Obando
Director of Public Affairs, League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter Opposing Initiative 21-0042A1

On December 5, 2023, the City Council of the City of Orland voted to oppose Initiative 21-0042A1, a deceptive, developer-sponsored proposition aimed for the November 2024 statewide ballot that would significantly jeopardize cities' ability to provide essential services and infrastructure for our residents.

The measure includes undemocratic provisions that would make it more difficult for local voters to pass measures needed to fund local services and projects and would limit voter input by prohibiting local advisory measures where voters can express a preference on how they want their local tax dollars spent.

This measure creates new constitutional loopholes that allow corporations to pay far less than their fair share for the impacts they have on our communities, including impacts on local infrastructure and our environment.

This measure also may make it much more difficult for state and local regulators to issue fines and levies on corporations that violate laws intended to protect our environment, public health and safety, and our neighborhoods.

Unless defeated, the measure puts billions of dollars currently dedicated to local services at risk, and could force cuts to fire and emergency response, law enforcement, public health, parks, libraries, affordable housing, services to support homeless residents, mental health services, and more.

While Orland voters approved a local transactions & use tax in 2016 that would remain intact, this measure would encumber the voters' ability to pass an additional similar local tax measure now or in the future, should local voters decide they want to raise local funds for a local purpose. Unnecessary State limits on local control are a

pernicious threat to sustainability of essential services in California cities – where most of us live and work. Voters in cities must be allowed to choose how they want to balance the locally-identified needs for public services with the need to protect business and economic interests. We don't need interference by State government or self-serving corporations.

You may list the City of Orland in formal opposition to Initiative #21-0042A1 and include our city as part of the growing coalition of public safety, labor, local government, infrastructure advocates, and other organizations throughout the State opposed to this deceptive proposition.

Sincerely,

Chris Dobbs
Mayor