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# DECEPTIVE INITIATIVE UNDERMINES LOCAL CONTROL AND VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Delta landowner Dean “Dino” Cortopassi has spent \$4.5 million to qualify a deceptive initiative for the November statewide ballot. This measure takes away local control by requiring a statewide vote even for some local infrastructure projects. The measure would add new layers of bureaucracy and red tape that will delay or derail needed improvements to critical infrastructure, including after emergencies and natural disasters. Here’s why a broad, bipartisan coalition of business, labor, local governments, family farmers, water agencies, healthcare, taxpayer, and public safety organizations is opposed to the deceptive Cortopassi measure:

- **Deceptive abuse of the system.** Multi-millionaire Dean Cortopassi has placed this measure on the ballot in order to try to disrupt a specific project – the plan to repair California’s statewide water distribution system through the Delta. Irrespective of one’s position on that single project, this measure has far broader implications – it would delay or even stop much needed repairs to our roads, bridges, water supply and delivery systems, hospitals and universities all over the state. We cannot allow one wealthy landowner to abuse the initiative process for his own personal agenda.
- **Erodes local control.** This measure takes away local control by requiring statewide voter approval even for some local infrastructure projects. Under this measure, cities and towns that want to come together with the state and form a JPA to issue revenue bonds to upgrade local water systems, roads, bridges, ports and universities would have to put their project on a statewide ballot. That means voters in faraway regions would have the authority to deny funding for local projects outside of their community.
- **Disrupts vital infrastructure development.** California and its local communities already suffer from a massive backlog of essential infrastructure needs including outdated water systems that cannot withstand earthquakes, crumbling roads and bridges, and over-crowded hospitals and universities. This measure would make our infrastructure problems worse by denying the use of revenue bonds to finance these much needed projects.
- **Contains NO exemptions for emergencies or a major disaster.** That means, in cases of an earthquake or flood, local governments may need to wait as long as two years in order to get voter approval to begin rebuilding damaged or destroyed roads, freeways, bridges, hospitals and water delivery systems after an emergency.
- **Unnecessary.** Private investors bear the financial risk for revenue bonds, not the state or its general fund. And revenue bonds are repaid by users of a project who directly benefit, not taxpayers. For instance, repairs to a bridge would be paid by tolls on the bridge, or customers in a specific water district would pay to build a water recycling plant, not taxpayers. It makes no sense to have a statewide election on projects not financed by taxpayers for which the state and local governments bear none of the financial risk.

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