Ballot Simplification Committee

FINAL Approved Digest – March 3, 2014: Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen, Unruh

Requests for Reconsideration were due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26

<u>**Voter Approval for Waterfront Height Increases**</u> *(working title only, subject to change)*

The Way It Is Now:

The City and County of San Francisco, through its Port Commission, administers about 7-1/2 miles of the waterfront and former waterfront along the San Francisco Bay, including most of the property between Fisherman's Wharf and India Basin. The Port's property includes piers, land near the piers, and areas that were filled and are no longer adjacent to the Bay. The City acquired most of this property from the State of California and holds it in trust for the benefit of the people of California. State law restricts the allowable uses of this property.

In 1990 the City's voters adopted Proposition H, which required the City to prepare a Waterfront Land Use Plan with public input. The Port Commission adopted a comprehensive land use plan that governs acceptable waterfront uses consistent with Proposition H and public trust requirements.

The City's zoning laws regulate development on that property, including the maximum allowed height. The existing height limits generally range from 40 feet to 84 feet. Changes in existing height limits usually require neighborhood notification, public hearings, and approval by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. These changes do not require the voters to approve a ballot measure.

The Proposal:

Proposition B would prevent the City from allowing any development on Port property that exceeds the height limits in effect as of January 1, 2014, unless the City's voters have first approved an increase in the height limit for that development. The measure applies to property currently under the control of the Port Commission, as well as any property that the Port may later acquire. Any ballot question to increase height limits on Port property must specify both existing and proposed height limits.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to prevent the City from allowing any development on Port property to exceed the height limits in effect as of January 1, 2014, unless the City's voters have approved a height limit increase.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make this change.

word count: 330 [suggested word limit: 300]