

Letter: Supervisor Seifert supports Measure AA

The overwhelming support for Measure AA on the June ballot speaks to the need to preserve and protect our most precious resource — the San Francisco Bay.

Look out the window. The Bay is the dominant natural presence not only in Solano County but throughout the region. It's the central focus of where we live, cranking millions of dollars a year into the local economy and drawing tourists from around the world. It deserves to be preserved and protected, but right now there is no sustainable funding to provide for its care.

A regional problem deserves a regional solution. Measure AA takes a reasonable regional approach to fulfilling our obligation to the Bay — a modest \$12 annual parcel tax adopted by all nine counties that will raise \$500 million over 20 years. A dollar a month — less than a cup of coffee — will go a long way toward addressing sea level rise and other climate change consequences that threaten our county, which is surrounded by water on its eastern and southern borders.

Barbara Wright's recent commentary in The Reporter misrepresented how the funds from Measure AA would be used and who would benefit. Measure AA would direct funding to restore thousands of acres of wetlands around the Bay and provide natural flood protection for critical infrastructure on the Bay shorelines. Twenty-five miles of new trails would be put in place to improve recreational and open space access.

This is a measure that would benefit everyone. While no final decisions have been made about where the funds would be used, a list of projects that would be eligible for grants includes the Benicia Shoreline, tidal marshes in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, wetlands restoration at Rush Ranch and marsh improvements to benefit waterfowl and shorebirds at Suisun Marsh.

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, comprised of elected representatives from around the Bay, including the North Bay, would oversee the distribution of funds, and a citizens oversight committee will assure that all regions of the Bay would be given equal consideration. Measure AA is a well thought out, common-sense solution to the very real threat of climate change and ongoing pollution. It takes a unique and sustainable regional approach to a regional problem, and ensures that our beautiful Bay will be around for generations to enjoy.

Measure AA is a smart idea that deserves the support of everyone in Solano County.

Linda Seifert, Solano County Board of Supervisors District 2