

August 5, 2024

Dear Director Arntz,

I am writing in response to the recent rebuttal letter from Lucas Lux, President of Friends of Great Highway Park, regarding the title of the ballot measure for the Upper Great Highway.

The rebuttal argues that the updated title, "Permanently Closing the Upper Great Highway to Private Vehicles to Establish a Public Open Recreation Space," is inconsistent with the measure's intent and past precedent. However, I believe that this title accurately reflects the measure's purpose and should be maintained for the following reasons:

1. **Clarity and Accuracy:** The updated title, 'Permanently Closing the Upper Great Highway to Private Vehicles to Establish a Public Open Recreation Space,' clearly and accurately represents the measure's dual aspects. It effectively communicates both the closure of the highway to private vehicles and the creation of a public open recreation space, ensuring voters understand the measure's immediate and long-term impacts.
2. **Consistency with Measure's Intent:** Although the measure's primary intent is to create public recreation space, the means of achieving this—closing the highway to private vehicles—is a critical component. The updated title reflects both aspects of the measure, providing voters with a clear and complete picture.
3. **Voter Understanding:** The proposed alternative titles suggested by Lucas Lux, such as "Recreational Use of the Upper Great Highway" and "Establishing a New Public Open Recreation Space by Restricting Private Vehicles on the Upper Great Highway," do not convey the full scope of the measure's impact. The updated title effectively combines the closure and the new recreational use, reducing the risk of voter confusion.
4. **Alignment with Final Digest Language:** The updated title aligns with the digest's final language. This consistency ensures that the title accurately reflects the measure's intended changes and the digest's description, providing voters with accurate and coherent information.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Department of Elections retain the updated title: "Permanently Closing the Upper Great Highway to Private Vehicles to Establish a Public Open Recreation Space." This title best represents the measure's intent and ensures voters are informed about its effects.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Vin Budhai
Founder, Open the Great Highway