

We keep hearing how special the City of Chino Hills is and how the city would face ruin if this additional sales tax is not approved. I agree that our town is special, for the same reasons identified by Measure J proponents: its stunning topography, incredible trail system, and reputation as one of the safest cities in the region.

But failure to pass this one percent sales tax rate increase will not change the city's topography, will not make our trail system disappear, and will not make our city less safe.

The city just finished the filtration plant on Eucalyptus Avenue that will allow all city wells back online. The plant will bring \$1 million a year back to the city. Before the plant opened, the city was spending \$1 million a year on imported water.

The city has a professional lobbyist and access to millions of dollars in grants from our congresspeople. In the past 12 months, Chino Hills received \$1.6 million for fire reduction citywide and \$1 million for storm drains in Los Serranos.

The city speaks about the rising cost of landscaping and parks but quietly abandoned its efforts to address this deficit head-on. Instead, they choose the easy way out by placing a one percent sales tax rate increase on the ballot for all residents to pay, not just the people who don't pay a landscape fee.

Chino Hills is indeed a special place and can remain special without caving to pressure from the city manager and council. Increasing taxes is a slippery slope, invites more tax increases, and discourages fiscal responsibility.

Vote No on new taxes. Vote No on Measure J.

Bill Shannon, 13671 Monteverde Drive, Chino Hills, CA