

Measure M Will Not Ban Any Vaccines or Drugs!

In their ads, mailers, and recorded calls, the opponents of Measure M have repeatedly stated that 'Measure M will prohibit access to drugs and vaccines.' This is just plain false. They are waging a million-dollar campaign of misinformation to frighten and deceive voters. They have already misled some veterinarians and others in the medical community – and the local press. **Don't be fooled – get the facts!**

Measure M is about crops, not vaccines.

Measure M is a 10-year moratorium on growing or raising transgenic (genetically engineered, or GE) organisms. Transgenic organisms are clearly and specifically defined in the ordinance as able to reproduce in the environment and transmit their GE traits to the next generation. No vaccine or drug for humans or animals meets this definition. Period.

From the County Public Health Department:

"It does not appear that the Ordinance would limit the sale or distribution of vaccines currently in use for humans in Sonoma County because these vaccines do not utilize transgenic organisms as defined in the Ordinance."

Mary Maddox-Gonzales,
Sonoma County Public Health Division Director

From Leading Scientists:

"After careful analysis and consultation, I am convinced that Measure M would not affect any existing or foreseen vaccines. It is my firm conviction that on principle and in practice, none of the existing, researched or even foreseeable vaccine applications of transgenic organisms would be affected by Sonoma County's Measure M, given that in all cases the genome containing the transgenic manipulation cannot be 'transmitted through the reproduction of the recipient organism' in the environment, as defined by the Measure."

Dr. Ignacio Chapela,
Microbial Biologist, UC Berkeley

From Local Veterinarians:

"I've carefully read the initiative, and it's clear to me that Measure M will not ban any drugs or vaccines we now use to treat Sonoma County's pets or farm animals."
Erich Williams, Veterinarian

From Vaccine Manufacturers:

"Safe and non-replicating: The vector – canarypox virus – absolutely cannot replicate in a horse."

Merial Corporation, manufacturer of all GE animal vaccines in question, including West Nile Virus vaccine for horses, on their literature and website (see www.equinewnv.com)

What about that Judge?

Superior Court Judge Hardcastle only ruled on the wording of the ballot arguments – **not** on the actual measure itself, or what it will do. He removed a sentence which said, "Measure M will not restrict medical research, production, or treatment." Why? Because Measure M requires a safe degree of containment in any labs doing GE research, and he saw that as a restriction. He let remain a sentence reading **"The moratorium prohibits only living, reproducing GE organisms. Drugs, vaccines, and all other medicines will still be available to everyone."** The Judge's decision was clearly about lab construction, not vaccines and drugs. Opponents are not only lying about Measure M, they are even lying about what a Superior Court Judge said.

Why are they lying?

When voters are confused, they usually vote no. The opponents of Measure M understand this. They also realize that they can't win on the merits of genetically engineered crops, so they are shifting the focus to another issue – one they invented – in order to frighten and confuse us. Don't fall for it! Tell everyone you know the truth about Measure M – that it will NOT ban ANY vaccines or drugs.

**For more information, or to volunteer:
707-823-4410
www.gefreesonoma.org**



**Don't let our children be guinea pigs!
Vote YES on M**

Yes on M – GE Free Sonoma County with major funding by Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, sponsored by a coalition of Sonoma County farming, fishermen, environmental and labor organizations • P.O. Box 1898 • Santa Rosa, CA 95402 • 707-823-4410 • www.gefreesonoma.org