ARGUMENTS

FORM OF STATEMENT TO BE FILED BY AUTHORS OF ARGUMENTS

All arguments concerning measures filed pursuant to Division 9, Chapter 3 (beginning with § 9200) of the Elections Code shall be accompanied by the following form statement **to be signed** by each proponent, and by each author, if different, of the argument:

The undersigned proponent (s) or author(s) of the (primary/rebuttal) argument (in favor of/against) ballot proposition (name or number) at the (title of election) election for the (jurisdiction) to be held on Nov 3, 2026 hereby state that the argument is true and correct to the best of (his/her/their) knowledge and belief.

Print Name Zhen Wu Title Council member (If applicable): Submitted on behalf of : (name of organization)	Signature [redacted] Date 5/29/2026
Print Name ROBERT BAILER Title FORMER MAYOR (If applicable): Submitted on behalf of : (name of organization)	Signature [redacted] Date 5-29-2026
Print Name KATHY WARD Title FORMER MAYOR (If applicable): Submitted on behalf of : (name of organization)	Signature [redacted] Date 5-29-2026
Print Name _____ Title _____ (If applicable): Submitted on behalf of : (name of organization)	Signature _____ Date _____
Print Name _____ Title _____ (If applicable): Submitted on behalf of : (name of organization)	Signature _____ Date _____

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT FOR MEASURE [ ]

We share the concern for our beaches and our neighborhoods. That is exactly why this measure — which cannot guarantee what it promises — deserves a closer look.

San Clemente already pays about $12 million annually for OCFA fire and emergency response — one of the nation's finest fire authorities, with equipment and assets already forward-positioned to protect us.

The proponents promise "dedicated funding." But read the fine print: zero requirement to increase total fire protection — not by a single dollar. Because this measure lacks a "maintenance-of-effort" safeguard, the new fire tax can replace existing costs, freeing up millions in current City funds for unrelated spending. **You pay more; you may not get more.**

That is the shell game behind the claim that "every dollar is legally restricted." **Technically true — and for that reason, inherently misleading.**

Even the City's own FEMA hazard mitigation grant application estimates the cost of wildfire prevention at about $2.1 million annually. Yet this measure dedicates $7.5 million to fire — with no concrete plan for the remaining $5.4 million and no requirement to show measurable increase in fire protection.

Tax first. Plan later.

This loophole is written directly into the law. Any future City Council "fix" is temporary and reversible. Once passed, voters lose their leverage to ensure the promised benefits are actually delivered.

San Clemente's beaches and neighborhoods deserve a measure that delivers what it claims — with guarantees written into law, not just promises spoken aloud. This one doesn't.

Demand better. Vote NO.