



By **EAST BAY TIMES EDITORIAL** |

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Editorial: Decision on EBRPD's tax renewal measure is easy

East Bay's park district is a gem. We're lucky to have it, we all benefit from it and we should support it



Lifeguard cadet Dean John dives onto a surfboard during a water rescue test as part of the East Bay Regional Park District Lifeguard Academy training at Lake Temescal in Oakland, Calif., on Saturday, May 17, 2014. The lifeguard academy is a paid 64 hour training program. After their open water lifeguard certification the cadets will be assigned to any of the 11 lakes and pool facilities of the EBRPD during the summer season. (Ray Chavez/Bay Area News Group)

The East Bay Regional Park District's ask from residents in the western parts of Alameda and Contra Costa counties is minimal: Continue a small parcel tax for another 20 years.

Voters should support Measure FF, which seeks \$12 a year for a single-family home. It's an extension of a tax that voters approved in 2004 and that will expire in 2020. The tax rate stays the same.

The tax applies to property owners in 11 communities and cities on the west side of the Berkeley Hills, from San Pablo to Oakland. It's the part of the district with the heaviest-used and oldest parks, district officials say.

EBRPD is the largest regional urban park district in the nation. It's a gem. We're lucky to have it, we all benefit from it and we should be willing to support it.

The \$3.3 million the parcel tax brings in annually will help pay for wildfire prevention; public safety; maintaining and improving visitor facilities, public access and trails; and restoring natural habitat.

This is one of the easiest decisions on the Nov. 6 ballot. Vote yes.