

The Stockton Record

Letters to the Editor

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Prop. 16 empowers voters

Daniel Thigpen's Feb. 26 article on Proposition 16, "Ballot initiative may alter power business," focused mainly on the opposition of local governments to free elections that would limit government spending - as Proposition 16 would require.

The entire point of Proposition 16 is to empower the people. I have a few points to make about the positive effects of Proposition 16:

South San Joaquin Irrigation District has accumulated millions of taxpayer dollars because certain bonds are now paid off. That money belongs to us, the people in the district. Instead, SSJID has already squandered \$12 million in its quixotic misadventure to take over PG&E's electric power business in the south county - without the consent of the voters. It will likely cost the people hundreds of millions more dollars if it succeeds, via eminent domain, in taking PG&E's business.

The people ought to have a say in SSJID's decision to spend millions of our dollars. That's exactly what Proposition 16 is all about!

Proposition 16 would close a loophole that governments use to go around the will of the voters. Isn't it important that the people get a say before government spends millions of our dollars or puts us further into debt?

Proposition 16, in spite of the fearmongering by those who support ever bigger government and endless spending, does just one thing: It empowers the people!

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