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CITY CLERK, City of Fairfield

Fool me once, shame on you.

Fool me twice, shame on me.

In 2012 Fairfield put Measure P, a 1 percent sales tax, on the ballot. Among its promises was to restore police and fire protection to full strength and to take care of our deteriorating streets. Citizens agreed and passed P. Police and fire services were restored...and then some.

The City soon replaced much of the police fleet with new SUVs. They added two new motorcycles. They instituted a project called the Homeless Intervention Team – two policemen seeking out and talking with homeless people – a task better suited to Social Services than gun-toting officers.

They re-opened a fire station. Good.

They rebuilt the reserve fund. Good.

But they continued old boondoggles like buying lobbyists in Washington, DC and Sacramento. They poured millions of dollars into the new train station overpass.

Streets? Before P, the City spent about \$2 million each year patching up the worst potholes. Nearly all of this money was from federal and state gasoline excise taxes. Public Works estimated that it would take about \$13 million annually to do it right.

Measure P produces about \$16 million each year. The City puts a bit more than \$2 million of this new revenue into the streets program – a total of \$4.2 million, not \$13 million. Most goes into re-sealing streets in the newer neighborhoods, not fixing our older crumbling streets.

Instead of the new tax money buying time to get the budget under control, it was back to business as usual. They never intended the tax to expire after 5 years!

They're coming at us again – another P – now for 15 years. Does anyone think the City will try to reduce spending this time?

Fool me again? NO!