

## There's no such thing as a temporary tax

Valley Chamber of Commerce CEO Matt Mahood suggests (Opinion, Feb. 9) that "maybe" San Jose needs "temporary" tax revenues to help improve public safety.

There is no such thing as a temporary tax. Parcel taxes for schools and libraries are good examples of how a temporary tax becomes permanent. The benefitting entities adjust expense levels to accommodate the "temporary" revenue increase and threaten service cuts if voters refuse to con-

tinue the tax. In short, it's a permanent temporary tax.

A temporary tax is similar to a temporary salary increase that lasts for, say, five years. Not many employees will put the temporary additional income into to savings in order to prepare for the day when it is repealed.

Unlike Mahood, Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility offers concrete examples on how the city can restore essential services through more efficient use of limited revenues and avoid a tax increase.

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