

Letter to El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

The El Dorado County Commission on Aging, at a Special Meeting on April 4, has Authorized a letter of support and concern regarding the budget proposals outlined in agenda item 25 of the April 8, 2025 meeting of El Dorado Board of Supervisor's agenda.

Dear Supervisors:

It is the mission of the El Dorado County Commission on Aging to support and advocate for the senior citizen population of El Dorado County, a population that, in this County is 31% over 60 years of age. El Dorado County's senior population's average age is higher than the State average age, which at last count was at 26.16% over 60 years old. Therefore, the influence and concerns of seniors are of great importance regarding the services provided by the County.

- The COA is aware that the County Supervisors are faced with difficult choices. Upon review of the proposals in Item 25, The Commissioners are concerned about the loss of the senior services in El Dorado Hills, but we are cognizant of the substantial cost savings to the County involved with the plan to consolidate the services with Placerville and are generally supportive of the proposal as outlined in section "b" of the agenda. The permanent loss of this facility would leave the county with only one daycare option but an inconvenient one for some large portions of the County.
- COA would like to point out that it may be impractical to modify the Senior Legal service in the County. That is a Federally mandated program and would require the County to go through complicated requirements such as public hearings to make any substantial changes. This issue was explored several years ago and it was determined that El Dorado County's legal services were unparalleled and also cost effective.
- Selling, or long-term leasing of the Senior Facilities in El Dorado Hills could present similar issues and should be carefully researched before any decisions are made. The building had been acquired from the El Dorado Hills Fire Department by the County for \$1.00 in 2005 and it currently houses both the Day Care and the Senior Center. It would not be surprising that such a sale would have conditions attached which also could present significant complications for any plan to sell or lease the facility. Again, there may be federal complications related to any such plan.

- The COA would like to be kept in the loop with the BOS on any plans related to the necessary trimming of the budget for the next fiscal year. Particularly with respect to the sale of the Senior Center facilities in El Dorado Hills.

Please be advised that the COA will be as helpful as possible in your efforts to budget for the next Fiscal Year. We have long memories that may come in handy. Once you deal with retirement, you start to understand difficult budget choices.

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Raymond Wyatt, Vice Chair of the COA

Joan Fuquay, Chair of the COA