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Public Comment - 44. 19-1755

1 message

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Tue, Dec 10, 2019 at 8:00 AM

HEARING - To consider the recommendation of the Planning Commission on amending the General Plan Economic Development Element with the removal of Policy 10.1.6.4; and the Planning Commission recommending the Board take the following actions:

- 1) Determine that pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), there is no evidence that the proposed amendment to remove language specific to how Transient Occupancy Tax is spent qualifies this action as a "project" and therefore is exempt from CEQA review;
- 2) Approve General Plan Amendment to remove Economic Development Policy 10.1.6.4 which states, "The majority of transient occupancy tax generated revenue shall be directed toward the promotion of tourism, entertainment, business and leisure travel in El Dorado County."; and
- 3) Adopt and authorize the Chair to sign Resolution 216-2019 for said General Plan Amendment.

Comment:

I live in South Lake Tahoe near the recently completed roundabout on Highway 50. This area does not need more promotion of tourism. The TOT should be used to handle problems that have been created by over tourism. Too much tourism affects the quality of life for those of us who live and work here. Technology has pushed tourism from a narrow corridor with sufficient amenities such as nightlife and food concessions into our neighborhoods. Investors have bought affordable homes making it hard for employees of the hospitality industry to live and work in our communities. Traffic has become a nightmare not only in "promoted" areas but in the outlying areas also. We do not need more ADVERTISING of our area.

1. The funds should be used to improve the roads in and around the areas tourists are visiting. This includes snow removal and traffic control. Last winter many local people could not get to and from work or pick up their children from school due to the impact of visitors leaving town and snow issues. A proposal to assess additional fees for snow removal should be paid by all who use the service. That includes the visitors who spend their winters in our communities.
2. The funds should also be used to support our emergency response workers. More visitors means more auto accidents, boating accidents, skiing accidents, and physical issues. We have stretched our responders to a breaking point where the local people are paying for the visitors use of the services. In Meyers (the base of Echo Summit) our responders handle traffic issues to Strawberry which is 15 miles and more than 30 minutes from their station. As a local homeowner, not a tourist, I am being asked for additional money to support this service because of the extensive use by tourists.

These fees should go back to where they were generated to support the communities that pay for the services that tourists use when visiting.

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