

S. Cabrera Open Forum

BOS 4/24/2018

Subject: Public Records Request :: P001602-031318

From: eldoradocountyca@mycusthelp.net

To: sophie.cabrera22@yahoo.com

Date: Friday, April 20, 2018 02:14:55 PM PDT

--- Please respond above this line ---



County of El Dorado

The Gold Standard in Public Service

Public Records

Dear Ms. Cabrera:

This letter shall supplement the March 22, 2018, response from Michael Ciccozzi to your March 12, 2018, Public Record Act request. In that response, Mr. Ciccozzi informed you that the County had conducted a search and did not locate any records that would be responsive to your Request No. 2 (regarding California Attorney General Reports) and that the County required an additional 30 days to conduct a search relative to your request for emails.

The County has now had the opportunity to complete that search of emails relative to your Request No. 1 and responds thereto by this letter. The County has, in fact, conducted a reasonable and good faith search for any responsive documents to your request for copies of "all emails between the California Attorney General and El Dorado County between July 2015 and December 2016 regarding the investigation of the El Dorado County 2014-2015 Grand Jury report regarding the conduct of Joe Harn (Auditor-Controller)." No such documents are in the possession, custody, or control of the County and this request is therefore considered closed.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Roger A. Runkle
Deputy County Counsel

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the [El Dorado County Public Records Center](#).

March 8, 2018

EDC BOS RCVD
MAR 12 2018 PM 8:14

Jim Mitrisin
Clerk of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: Public Records Act Request

Dear Mr. Mitrisin,

Pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.), I ask to obtain the following documents (see attached), which I understand to be held or accessible by your office.

I ask for a determination on this request within 10 days of your receipt of it, and an even prompter reply if you can make that determination without having to review the record(s) in question.

If you determine that any or all of the information qualifies for an exemption from disclosure, I ask you to note whether, as is normally the case under the Act, the exemption is discretionary, and if so whether it is necessary in this case to exercise your discretion to withhold the information. Also, please be aware that I will seek legal remedies from the Superior Court if my request for this information is blocked as the benefits to the public's best interest outweighs any right to privacy.

If you determine that some but not all of the information is exempt from disclosure and that you intend to withhold it, I ask that you redact it for the time being and make the rest available as requested.

Additionally, please provide a signed notification citing the legal authorities on which you rely if you determine that any or all of the information is exempt and will not be disclosed.

If I can provide any clarification that will help expedite your attention to my request, please contact me at Sophie.cabrera22@yahoo.com or at (916) 215-1771. I ask that you notify me of any duplication costs exceeding \$50 before you duplicate the record so that I may decide which records I want copied.

I am sending a copy to your legal advisor to help encourage a speedy determination, and I would likewise be happy to discuss my request with him at any time.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Cabrera', written in a cursive style.

**Sophie Cabrera, Retired
(916) 215-1771**

Cc: Michael Ciccozzi, County Counsel.

Public Records Act Request

- I. **A copy of all emails between the California Attorney General and El Dorado County between July 2015 and December 2016 regarding the investigation of the El Dorado County 2014-2015 Grand Jury report regarding the conduct of Joe Harn (Auditor-Controller).**

- II. **A copy of any report(s) provided by the California Attorney General to El Dorado County regarding their investigation and findings into any allegations of misconduct of Joe Harn.**



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Sacramento region

CRIME-SACTO 911

No charges filed against El Dorado County auditor- controller

BY CATHY LOCKE
clocke@sacbee.com

July 21, 2016 07:05 PM
Updated July 24, 2016 08:55 AM

An investigation by the state attorney general's office into allegations regarding the conduct of El Dorado County's auditor-controller, Joe Harn, has concluded with no charges filed, according to El Dorado County officials.

The county issued a brief news release Thursday announcing the conclusion of the investigation that stemmed from allegations in a 2014-15 county grand jury report regarding Harn's conduct.

The grand jury recommended that the district attorney investigate the allegations and findings in the report to determine whether Harn should be removed from office. It also recommended that the district attorney consider impaneling a criminal grand jury for that purpose.

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“Out of an abundance of caution and in order to avoid the appearance of any conflict, the District Attorney referred the matter to the state Attorney General to conduct the investigation,” Creighton Avila, a county spokesman, said in an email. “The Attorney General has concluded their investigation and will take no further action.”

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Avila said the attorney general’s office did not provide a written report of its findings but rather informed the county via email that it had concluded the investigation and no charges would be filed. He said the specific allegations are confidential and declined to say whether the investigation involved allegations other than those in the grand jury report.

The grand jury report alleged that the auditor-controller:

- Failed to submit a complete and correct cost allocation plan to the state of California, resulting in a loss of more than \$1 million in federal reimbursement for fiscal year 2013-14 and additional losses in succeeding years.**

- Is more focused on placing blame on others for problems than working with them to resolve problems.
- Delays or refuses payments for political or personal reasons.
- Refused to release an audit of the Public Guardian when the findings did not support his criticism of that office.
- Fails to comply with reporting requirements.
- Fails to adhere to basic principles of human resources management.
- Is guilty of bullying others.

The county retained the law firm of Prentice, Long & Epperson to provide investigative services on an as-requested basis, with the amount of the contract not to exceed \$60,000, Avila said, adding that services under that contract have concluded.

Cathy Locke: 916-321-5287, @lockecathy

COMMENTS ▼



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March 19, 2018

Mr. James Mitrison
Clerk of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: Public Records Act Request

Dear Mr. Mitrison:

Pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code § 6250 et seq.), I hereby request a copy of the following, which I understand to be held by your agency:

1. Copies of all documents, including, but not limited to e-mails, meeting notes, minutes of meetings, letters and complaints that allege or reference sexual improprieties, harassment, creation of a hostile work environment or threats of actual or potential retaliation by an elected County official against a County employee from January 1, 2012 to the date of this request.
2. Copies of all reports, investigations, or evaluation of complaints by the Board of Supervisors or its designee, from January 2012 to the date of this request, respecting allegations by County employees of harassment, sexual improprieties, creation of a hostile work environment or threats of retaliation by an elected County official, including, but not limited to the report prepared by Prentice, Long & Epperson, PC, with all referenced or incorporated materials of the report.
3. Copies of notices of resignation by County employees that contain any of the following terms "harassment, hostile work environment, sexual improprieties or retaliation".
4. Any letters or other documents related to the tender to the County's insurance company affording Employment Practices coverage relating to the defense of a claims by a County Employee of allegations sexual impropriety, harassment, creation of a hostile work environment or retaliation.
5. Documents relating to the settlement of claims or potential claims by County employees wherein such claims alleged or may have alleged sexual improprieties, harassment, creation of a hostile work environment or retaliation.

6. A copy of any checks made payable to Prentice, Long and Epperson, PC, and all correspondence between Prentice, Long and Epperson, PC and the County of El Dorado related to payment for services for the period January 1, 2012 to the date of this request.
7. Copies of emails during the period of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014 between county employees or former county employees relating to investigation of workplace related claims or settlement of claims by George Hills and/or George Hills Company and/or George Hills Company, Inc. of Rancho Cordova, CA.

I ask for a determination on this request within 10 days of your receipt of it.

If you determine that some but not all of the information is exempt from disclosure and that you intend to withhold it, I ask that you redact it and make the rest of the material available as requested. I further request that you provide a signed statement citing the legal authorities on which you rely respecting any requested materials you determine are exempt.

I ask that you notify me of any duplication costs exceeding \$500.00 before you duplicate the records so that I may decide which records I want copied.

County Counsel and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors have been sent a copy of this request in order to expedite a response.

If you have any questions or need to contact me regarding this request, I may be reached at sophie.cabrera22@yahoo.com or (916) 215-1771

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Cabrera', written in a cursive style.

Sophie Cabrera, retired

K. Payne BOS 4/24/2018

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. [18-0378](#) Chief Administrative Office recommending the Committee:
1) Recognize and acknowledge Linnea Marengo for her dedication to CEDAC from September 29, 2015 to January 30, 2018; and
2) Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a Certificate recognizing Linnea Marengo's dedication to community and economic development in El Dorado County.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

Yes: 5 - Roberta Long, Kris Payne, Glenn Krakow, Ann Wofford and Felicity Wood

Absent: 4 - Charlie Downs, Scot Bernstein, Mark Lobaugh and Leon Abravanel

3. [18-0360](#) Chair recommending the Committee receive and file an update from the Community Planning Ad Hoc Committee. (Est. Time 5 min.)

Received and Filed

4. [18-0361](#) Chair recommending the Committee receive and file an update from the Collaboration for Success Ad Hoc Committee. (Est. Time 10 min.)

Public Comment: M. Ranalli

Received and Filed

5. [18-0363](#) Pursuant to Board direction provided at the November 7, 2017 Board of Supervisors Meeting, Staff is requesting that CEDAC:

- 1) Explore solutions to the County's housing and jobs issue and report back to the Board on the relationship of available housing and jobs to Economic Development. This request is in alignment with Objective 6 of the Economic Development Element of the County's Strategic Plan: Provide diverse workforce housing options - balance jobs with housing;
2) Explore energy alternatives, including clean energy, for the El Dorado Hills Business Park, and report back to the Board on potential alternatives. This request is in alignment with Objective 3: Invest in infrastructure needs to improve and maintain competitiveness; and
3) Return to the Board with their recommended Action Plan for 2018-19 for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Public Comment: M. Ranalli, K. Witherow, C. Munt

No Action Taken.

Home prices soar amid fierce rush for dwindling supply

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

26 mins ago

[Open in app](#)

U.S. home prices jumped in February as buyers compete fiercely over a dwindling number of properties for sale.

The S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller national home price index released Tuesday jumped 6.3 percent in February from a year earlier, matching December's increase. That jump was the largest in nearly three years.

Steady job gains and rising numbers of millennials moving out on their own has intensified the competition for homes. February's price gain far outpaces average increases in wages or inflation.

Americans are becoming reluctant to sell their homes as mortgage rates rise, preferring to renovate instead. Others are holding onto their homes because they see few other options available. That's kept supply tight: The number of homes for sale fell 7.2 percent in March from a year earlier to just 1.67 million.

Sales of existing homes ticked up in March but actually declined slightly from a year earlier as the **housing shortage constrained sales.**

Homebuyers are getting increasingly aggressive, snapping up homes an average of 30 days after they are listed in March, down from 34 days a year earlier.

"Competition is fierce, offer windows are short and tensions will inevitably run high for many buyers as the spring shopping season unfolds," Svenja Gudell, chief economist at real estate data website Zillow, said.

There are signs that the **supply crunch** could ease later this year, as listings have picked up in recent months, only to be quickly sold. And developers are



W. Nagel BOS 4/24/2014

Situation of 2018 fire dangers of local area
El Dorado County

Newtown Rd, 2018 Fire potential and Public Notice

Area of concern:
" Newtown Rd. E of Ft. Jim Westerly intersection"
(Or between both E. and W. Ft Jim intersections of Newtown RD.)

**SAFETY NOTICE – CLOSURE OF NEWTOWN RD. DURING FIRE SEASON FOR
ROAD REPAIR**

Proposed road repair during the coming fire season is totally inexcusable, and a extreme safety hazard due to the following conditions:

Steep slope canyons with 100 yr. fuel loads

Uphill slope to East, with prevailing Westerly wind flow, contributing to extreme fast moving flame front; and an "Entrapment" scenario

Escape routes blocked or unusable, especially to the East for Newtown residents

Partial and **untimely** blocked access, by County Road construction; preventing rapid and necessary access for fire equipment to protect persons and property!!

One-way in – one-way out

Over-hanging growth on road, creating a fire "tunnel" effect

NO Publicized escape routes: **NO** proper Safety Zones or Escape Areas

Alarming Lack of awareness of fire danger by affected property owners and families (in immediate area)

Lack of concern by public officials

Severe cuts of Aviation assets across the nation will greatly decrease our firefighters ability to slow or stop fires in our area with retardant drops.

Lowest numbers of aerial resources Nationally
In 40+ years!!

Call or visit your County Supervisor immediately, with your concerns!!!

Failure to Perceive the Threat

Weber Creek drainage and Newtown Rd.

The current conditions in the Newtown Road area in the deep gorge South of highway 50, East of Placerville, constitute a great risk of a catastrophic 'fire storm'. The near vertical topography and the 100-year-old fuel load consisting of pyrophitic species, oaks and conifers combine to form a continuous fuel bed. In an extreme burn period with even a 20-knot upslope wind the fire will burn so intensely that it will burn everything down to mineral soil. If such a fire starts to the West driven by a West wind, it will be unstoppable.

The road system in this area is wholly inadequate for the purposes of evacuation. The proposal to close Newtown Rd. for new road construction further limits the evacuation to one route only and that route is to the West very probably toward the oncoming fire. This is precisely the scenario that presents the greatest risk of entrapment. With no viable escape routes and no safety zones where Citizens can shelter in place, mass casualties can be expected.

There are many urban interface communities throughout California that present the same problems. They are serviced by one road in and one road out. Those roads are often through tunnels of vegetation that will burn at temperatures hot enough to melt steel. Entrapment is the likely consequence of the failure to prepare for this eventuality. Most of these communities have also failed to create the necessary safety zones where people can go to shelter in place.

A strategy for survival must be instituted and it must be done quickly. Number one is to not close down one of the primary escape routes during the fire season. Secondly a massive campaign must be undertaken to defuse the threat by creating firebreaks, safety zones and defenseable space around buildings and the proposed escape routes.

* This year severe cuts in aviation assets across the board will greatly reduce the ability to stop or slow the fire using retardant drops. More and larger fires will be the probable result.

We fail to take these necessary precautions at our own peril.