

I was surprised one evening to receive a personal phone call from the Honorable Barbara Alby at the State Board of Equalization. Although I'd never met her, Barbara had heard about my experience working for the Sacramento Mayors Office and my Capitol ministry affiliations extending across the nation. It was an interesting conversation that can only be described as a "divine appointment."

After praying together Barbara offered me a lucrative position in the executive offices of the BOE. However due to the economic crisis and subsequent hiring freeze I was required to fill out a 16-page employment application and undergo an extensive background check. It took all of 3 days for HR to complete the hiring process which required the special authorization of Governor Schwarzenegger. Amazing what can be accomplished when you have friends in "high places"...

Which brings me to the point of last week's Open Forum when I publicly requested Mike Ranalli respond to a "Come to Jesus meeting" initially made in July of last year. Brenda Bailey was tasked with coordinating our meeting with the Sheriff, Roger Trout, CSP Superintendent Barry Smith and me to discuss the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council and related public safety issues.

In essence Mike again stonewalled and refused to meet with a constituent as required by his Oath of Office. He then disrespectfully gave an evasive answer on camera saying that he didn't have the "higher authority to invite Jesus to a meeting." Ron Mikulaco's remark "If you get Jesus to show up at a meeting I'd like to be there" was equally inappropriate.

According to Black's Law Dictionary an "evasive answer" is *"One which consists in refusing either to admit or to deny a matter in a direct, straight forward manner as to which the person is necessarily presumed to have knowledge. Under Federal Rules Civil Procedure 37, an evasive answer is considered and treated as a failure to answer, for which a party may on motion may seek a court order compelling answers to discovery questions."*

For your information a Come to Jesus Meeting is described as, *"Basically, a conversation where painful/unpleasant truths are told. The term refers to a serious meeting with an individual or group of people that involves an ultimatum, usually related to much-needed improvement and changes that must be made. It may even include a reprimand. Other definitions for a "come to Jesus meeting" include confession time, coming clean, tell it like it is, or a time to sit down and reassess priorities."*

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During the break Mike approached me at the back of the room. His off camera response revealed outright lies. Three times Mike said, "I've never refused a meeting" and contradicted evidence to the contrary pertaining to his knowledge of County Counsel's mishandling of Public Record Act requests and illicit use of taxpayer resources to provide legal services to a **private non-profit corporation**. As proof a transcript of our 6.5 minute dialog is being submitted into the public record. The following excerpts are for the benefit of the viewing audience:

Melody: So when do we have our Come to Jesus meeting?

Mike: I asked those representatives but they declined to have a meeting. Now if you want to meet I've never refused a meeting...

Melody: Well, I mean we were asking for this meeting all the way back in July...

Mike: I cannot make Sheriff D'Agostini take a meeting. I cannot make State Parks take a meeting. They don't work for me.

Melody: But...OK...Barry Smith has already agreed to attend. Bob Day had but you had already met with Bob Day and with Tim Kulton and this is where the whole...

Mike: I haven't met with any of them.

Melody: Yeah you have. I've got the emails that say you have.

Mike: I've never refused a meeting but I can't make them come to a meeting. They declined.....In that session many of them remarked that some of what you want to talk about...

Melody: OK but you do have knowledge of it. And since when is County Counsel now giving a non-profit organization legal counsel?

Mike: I have no knowledge that they're coaching them...I just don't believe that. **(Mr. Ranalli, your name is on Robyn Drivon's letter.)**

Mike: The handling of Public Record Act requests has to be dealt with through County Counsel.....and my remark was about County Counsel coaching an independent...one of 15 Fire Safe Councils? They don't do it.

Melody: Well they did. That was part of what I submitted into the public record. And again Mike...this is part of what we need to have a Come to Jesus Meeting about. I mean this whole thing is about the lack of transparency and accountability. That's the problem here. I want to have a meeting with MY SUPERVISOR about some of these issues.

Mike: I've never refused a meeting.

Mike, you can't evade this Come to Jesus meeting any longer. You're digging yourself into a deeper hole and losing credibility as an effective Supervisor. How do you want to resolve this matter?

Madam Clerk: Please enter these documents into the public record:

1. This transcript
2. 1/5/16 Ranalli 6.5 min. transcript during BOS break
3. 1/8/16 @ 4:23 PM request for a Come to Jesus Meeting w/Ranalli
4. 12/19/15 @ 2:22 PM email from Tim Kulton prepared by CC
5. 12/11/15 letter from Robyn Drivon dated 12/2/15 re: CL FSC CPRA
6. 12/24/15 Compass2Truth 5-page response to Robyn Drivon re: CL FSC CPRA

1/5/16 Conversation with Michael Ranalli during break re: request for a meeting:

Mike Ranalli: ...all day. But let's start with...

Lori Parlin:...It's supposed to be a short day, right? Or at least it looks like it. I'm planning on scooting out...

Mike Ranalli: I'm expecting it to be.

Lori: OK.

Melody Lane: So when do we have our Come to Jesus meeting?

① Mike: I asked those representatives but they declined to have a meeting. Now if you want to meet I...I'll...I've never refused a meeting but those folks...I cannot...

Melody: Well, I mean we were asking for this meeting all the way back in July...

Mike: I cannot make Sheriff D'Agostini take a meeting. I cannot make State Parks take a meeting. They don't work for me.

Melody: But...OK...Barry Smith has already agreed to attend. Bob Day had but you had already met with Bob Day and with Tim Kulton and this is where the whole...

Mike: I haven't met with any of them.

Melody: Yeah you have. I've got the emails that say you have.

Mike: No, I met with Deborah over the map. She came in and she...

Melody: Well the thing is, those are the issues and it has an awful lot to do again with the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe...

② Mike: I've never refused a meeting but I can't make them come to a meeting. They declined.

Melody: OK. I got the word that they all declined.

Mike: In that session many of them remarked that some...some of what you want to talk about...

Melody: Uh huh?

Mike: That the purpose of the Fire Safe Council...which I don't run...nor do I have a role in their Board member selection. No role whatsoever.

Melody: OK but you do have knowledge of it. And since when is County Counsel now giving a non-profit organization legal counsel?

Mike: Your...your memo suggested that.

Melody: It's not suggested. It's factual. I got it from Paula Franz.

Mike: I...I...I have no knowledge that they're coaching them up in their...I just don't believe that.

Melody: I just submitted it into the number nine public record Mike! Take a look at the facts.

Mike: They have not coached...the Fire Safe...they don't coach individual Fire Safe council members.

Melody: The whole thing was written by County Counsel...

Mike: When was it...

Melody: ...and it included my letter.

Mike: So that...so...so...so that transcript that you had was uh...uh...um...Robyn and...a witness?

Melody: Two witnesses.

Mike: Two witnesses. OK. Uh...I uh...don't want to know who they were. I just want to understand the threat. When did that occur?

Melody: That was back in uh...November 12th of 2014.

Mike: OK. The Fire Safe Council wasn't even created until...

Melody: OK. The whole point had to do with Public Record Act requests and the fact that County Counsel is supposed to be spearheading all of this and tracking it. I think her name is Molly...is supposed to be doing the spreadsheet. That's the reason Ross Branch got fired...because that was his job to make sure that they were properly responded to in a timely manner and properly handled but they were all coming through County Counsel.

Mike: The handling of Public Record Act requests has to be dealt with through County Counsel.

Melody: I know.

Mike: OK. And...and...

Melody: A good example was today. Joe Harn didn't respond properly...

Mike: ...and my remark was about County Counsel coaching an independent...what one...one of 15 uh...uh...Fire Safe Councils? They don't do it.

Melody: Well they did. That was part of what I submitted into the public record. And again Mike...this is part of what we need to have a Come to Jesus Meeting about. I mean this whole thing is about the lack of transparency and accountability. That's the problem here.

Mike: It would appear that County Counsel has entertained a meeting with you. I don't that they ever...

Melody: They called it!

Mike: OK then...

Melody: They called the meeting.

Mike: Then continue your dialog with them. And there's an opportunity now with the change in chairs...

Melody: That's the problem. You read that letter and you see...connect the dots to what I submitted into the public record. I get...I get five minutes up here before I get cut off. And so this is why we need to have a meeting with MY SUPERVISOR because...what is taking place...REALLY taking place here? The evidence shows it is not the same as what is...

Mike: So here...so here's what...

Melody:...communicated to the public here in these meetings.

Mike: So here's what I'm more than willing to do. Should YOU...independently of me...whether it's initiated by County Counsel or yourself...should you have a meeting with County Counsel...and you would like me to sit in on that meeting...I'd be more than happy to do it.

Melody: At this point it's moot. Robyn Drivon and Paula Franz have pretty much...

Mike: Robyn is effectively gone...and there is now Mike...

Melody: And Mike Ciccozzi is part of the problem...you know...in this whole thing.

Mike: OK then. If you don't want to have a meeting...I...I...

Melody: No. I want to have a meeting with MY SUPERVISOR about some of these issues.

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Mike: I've never refused a meeting.

Melody: Well...

Mike: I cannot call together those...those...entities that don't work for me.

Melody: Brenda...Brenda was working on it.

Mike: She tried. I talked to them individually. Uh...a lot of them said...I participate in the Fire Safe Council. These are discussions with the Fire Safe Council.

Melody: OK. Well my understanding is from Tim...

Mike: You make the meeting happen. You can make it happen.

Melody: ...you're also telling Tim Kulton not to talk to me.

Mike: That's not true. I don't tell anybody that.

Melody: Well...hey...that's...

Mike: If I don't want to talk to someone I...

Melody:...Mike...Mike...

Mike: ...say I have a problem with that...we have a communication...we may meet later...I don't do that
Melody, I don't do that.

Melody: Mike I got the word. I got the word...so...

Dec 31 4

Mike: I would never discourage anyone. I don't control Tim Kulton. I don't control him. He's a private citizen.

Melody: He's also a member of American River Conservancy.

Mike: Well...they're not sending me any Christmas cards.

Melody: Well yeah...I'll tell you what they did do to me. They signed me up to American River Conservancy's newsletter at the same time they went onto Coloma Lotus News...

Mike: I have...I have...I have no control over them either.

Melody:...well the whole thing is that has to do with the hacking of my computer, my email, and that's what the Sheriff's Department is investigating.

Mike: I'll repeat myself. American River Conservancy isn't sending me any Christmas cards. (Walks away)

End of Transcript

D... 4/4

Melody Lane

From: Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com>
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 4:23 PM
To: michael.ranalli@edcgov.us; 'Brenda Bailey'
Cc: 'Paula Frantz'; Robyn Drivon; 'Sheriff DAgostini'; barry.smith@parks.ca.gov; 'Roger Trout'; 'Laura Lyons'; 'Pamela Knorr'; bosfive@edcgov.us; bosfour@edcgov.us; bosone@edcgov.us; bosthree@edcgov.us; bostwo@edcgov.us; ron.mikulaco@edcgov.us
Subject: Request for a Come to Jesus meeting...
Attachments: Responding to your request... (152 KB); 1-5-16 OF Oaths of Office.CPRA.docx

Dear Supervisor Ranalli,

During the 1/5/16 BOS Open Forum you refused to respond to a repeated request to schedule a meeting to discuss concerns pertaining to EDSO, OES and the Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council. For your reference I have attached a copy of my presentation.

However during the break you apparently reconsidered your on-camera remarks when you approached me at the rear of the room and indicated your willingness to meet as befitting your duty and Constitutional Oath of Office.

I understand you are powerless to force the Sheriff to participate, but that is no excuse for you to avoid addressing constituent concerns about public safety within District #4. The Sheriff may choose to delegate an EDSO representative in his place.

Barry Smith has indicated to me his willingness to attend this meeting. However Brenda has not yet provided me an update about any of the other participants availability to meet since my initial contact with your office stemming from my July 5th CLNews posting concerning the yearly illegal fireworks and related safety concerns at the Coloma Resort.

The request for this "Come to Jesus" meeting is the same as it was in July to meet with Sheriff D'Agostini, Roger Trout, Acting MGDSP Superintendent Barry Smith, and an active member of the CL FSC (myself). The purpose is to avoid unnecessary litigation at EDC taxpayer expense. This definition may be helpful to keep the prepared agenda on track:

COME TO JESUS MEETING: Basically, a conversation where painful/unpleasant truths are told. The term refers to a serious meeting with an individual or group of people that involves an ultimatum, usually related to much-needed improvement and changes that must be made. It may even include a reprimand.

Other definitions for a "come to Jesus meeting" include confession time, coming clean, tell it like it is, or a time to sit down and reassess priorities.

By the way, Ron Mikulaco's arrogant response was very disrespectful leaving little doubt about the necessity for Total Recall, *"If you get Jesus to show up at a meeting I'd like to be there."*

In light of the 1/12/16 BOS agenda, the courtesy of your immediate response is appreciated. Thanks in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Regards,

Melody Lane
Founder - Compass2Truth
Conservatives Serving God in Truth & Liberty

~ By identifying the people's sovereign will not with its latest but its oldest expression, the Framers succeeded in identifying the people's authority with the Constitution, not with the statutory law made by their representatives. ~

From: Melody Lane [mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 9:37 PM
To: michael.ranalli@edcgov.us; Brenda Bailey
Cc: Paula Frantz; Sheriff D'Agostini; barry.smith@parks.ca.gov; Roger Trout; Laura Lyons; Steve Willis; Pamela Knorr; bosfive@edcgov.us; bosfour@edcgov.us; bosone@edcgov.us; bosthree@edcgov.us; bostwo@edcgov.us
Subject: FW: CL Fire Safe Meeting - Argonaut conversation

Supervisor Ranalli,

Your name was brought up by Tim Kulton during a conversation last week referred to below. Tim pulled up the attached 11/10/15 email on his cell phone and mentioned other correspondence specifically with you regarding these public safety concerns. Tim was so totally bizarre and unreasonable that I had to walk away from him.

It was apparent that Mr. Kulton has no intention of revealing who the C-L Fire Safe officers are, how/by whom they were elected, and your complicity in the situation. What the heck is going on???

To date I have not yet heard from you or Brenda Bailey as to the coordination of the meeting requested in July with Barry Smith, Sheriff D'Agostini, Roger Trout and a member of the C-L Fire Safe Council (Bob Day has dropped out of the picture.) What is the status of that meeting as per the attached 8/31/15 email?

BTW, these same concerns also were brought up by residents during the RCC meeting held 11/20 at the Garden Valley Fire Dept. where Sheriff D'Agostini was the guest speaker.

Your written response to both the above inquiries is expected by the end of this business week December 4th.

Serving the community,

Melody Lane
Founder - Compass2Truth

~ By identifying the people's sovereign will not with its latest but its oldest expression, the Framers succeeded in identifying the people's authority with the Constitution, not with the statutory law made by their representatives. ~

From: Melody Lane [<mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 4:27 PM
To: Tim Kulton
Cc: deborahskruse@gmail.com
Subject: RE: CL Fire Safe Meeting - Argonaut conversation

Tim, you do not know me. We've only had one face-to-face conversation at the Coloma Club about a year ago. It is troubling that I've still not received the courtesy of a reply to my inquiry below about the FSC officers, or how/by whom they were elected.

In light of our brief conversation Sunday afternoon in front of the Argonaut, you confirmed the reasons I--and several neighbors--are deeply concerned about the Coloma-Lotus FSC and the "people" who appear to be controlling it. ***They are not elected, transparent or accountable.***

Even more disturbing was your reticence to "reveal" public information. Your attitude appears to be based upon false rumors of unidentified "people" who told you not to talk to me, fear I'm going to "hassle" them, or object to the purpose of the FSC. That's a bunch of baloney.

Just so there are no misunderstandings: ***I am the person who is being harassed, libeled, slandered, hacked, cased, intimidated, intruded upon and routinely violated.*** Four other women have been run out of Coloma by the "people" you referred to, aka the River Mafia. I serve a holy God, therefore I have no fear of Mafia thugs...

Your contentious comments left no doubt about the identity of "people" you refused to name. They are the same individuals who are under EDSO investigation stemming from my July 5th CLNews posting about the Coloma Resort annual illegal fireworks and frequent traffic jams at the Mt. Murphy Bridge.

They are the same "people" who've formed a committee to slander and censor me from CLNews just like they did 10 years ago. ***They are LIARS.***

Bubba Kite confirmed their involvement just minutes prior to the September FSC meeting. That evening Mike Ranalli abruptly cut off dialog regarding the necessity of road turnouts every 400 feet because of the sensitivity of a complex issue that has been deliberately avoided for decades. Ranalli agreed to coordinate a meeting 4 months ago to address these concerns but it has again been swept under the bureaucratic rug, just like Briggs. Why do you think his was the first recall notice served?

BTW, that is further reason for me to decline your invitation to meet privately with you and Steve Willis. Private meetings are like dead end streets. Everyone knows I don't meet privately with anyone--BOS, Sheriff, County Counsel, Park staff--unless accompanied by at least one other witness. Ya'll simply can't be trusted to be transparent or accountable.

All 5 Mt. Murphy arson fires have started either directly on my property or within ¼ mile from my home. The 2007 Mt. Murphy arson site where ARC cut off my fire access was ignited by arsonist Ben Cunha. That fire claimed the life of my beloved golden retriever. Cunha was under \$10M bail just like the King Fire arsonist. The photos and letters I submitted to 12 government agencies generated correspondence and phone calls from the CA Fire Marshal, Governor Schwarzenegger, attorneys and legislators with whom I worked while employed at the Capitol. The root issues still remain unaddressed, shrouded in litigation, or bureaucratically avoided.

The real question that needs to be **publicly** addressed is: Why is EDC, the MGDGP and media avoiding the public safety and risk management issues associated with all these C-L fires?

Inquiring minds would like to know why all the secrecy about the CL FSC officers?

Melody Lane

**Founder, Compass2Truth
Conservatives Serving God in Truth & Liberty**

"It does not take a majority to prevail... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men." ~ Samuel Adams ~

From: Melody Lane [<mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com>]

Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 5:28 PM

To: 'deborahskruse@gmail.com'; Tim Kulton

Subject: RE: [CLNews] CL Fire Safe Meeting, Gold Trail Grange, Wednesday 11/18/2015 - 7pm

I was unable to make the FS meeting Wednesday. Who are the officers and how/by whom were they elected?

A brief update or synopsis of the meeting would be much appreciated.

Melody Lane

**Founder, Compass2Truth
Conservatives Serving God in Truth & Liberty**

"It does not take a majority to prevail... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men." ~ Samuel Adams ~

From: clnews@googlegroups.com [<mailto:clnews@googlegroups.com>] **On Behalf Of** Deborah & Scott Kruse

Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2015 6:43 PM

To: Coloma-Lotus News

Subject: [CLNews] CL Fire Safe Meeting, Gold Trail Grange, Wednesday 11/18/2015 - 7pm

At the Wednesday 11/18/2015, 7- 8:30pm Meeting - BIG News

- 1) CL Fire Safe Council now formed - meet the Officers
- 2) Countywide Community Wildfire Prevention Plan Status Update
- 3) El Nino - Status Update and Flood Preparedness Practical Tips
- 4) Are Burn Permits OK'd Yet?
- 5) Lessons Learned from the Butte and King Fires
- 6) How to apply for Free Chipper Service- <http://www.edcfiresafe.org/programs-grants-2/chipper-program/>
When you apply, indicate your neighborhood area in Coloma-Lotus so that work might be coordinated by neighborhood.
- 7) Upcoming CL Fire Safe Council Plans

See you at the Gold Trail Grange

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "Coloma-Lotus News" Google Group.

To post to this group, send email to clnews@googlegroups.com

Response to post goes to the sender only. To "reply all" CC clnews@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe from this group, send email to clnews+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

Friends can join by sending email to clnews+subscribe@googlegroups.com

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Coloma-Lotus News" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to

clnews+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

Melody Lane

From: Tim Kulton <tkulton@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2015 2:22 PM
To: Fire- Melody Lane
Cc: Deborah S Kruse
Subject: Responding to your request...
Attachments: County Council Response CPRA dated 12-02-15 Melody Lane.pdf

Date: Dec. 19, 2015

Dear Ms. Lane:

We are writing in response to your several recent contacts both in person and through email and thank you for your interest in the Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council.

The Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council (CLFSC) is a newly formed associate of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDCFSC). The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council is a private non-profit, public benefit corporation formed as a tax exempt entity. The word "County" in the title refers to a geographic area and does not imply that the EDCFSC is a part of El Dorado County Government.

As the EDCFSC is a private corporation it is not subject to the Brown Act and is not subject to public records laws or the freedom of information act. Even though the council is not required by law to comply with these regulations, the council and its leadership strive to maintain transparency and to the extent possible follow the intent of these laws. The meetings and agendas are published in advance and meeting notes or minutes are posted for public access. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings and there is a public comment period at each meeting where members of the public community can make their views known to all.

It seemed to me that your questions in front of the Argonaut would be more appropriate at one of our public meetings, or our web site where everyone could hear/see the questions as well as the answers. In fact, as open and transparent public meetings is one of your stated objectives, we agree and invite you to attend and participate.

Our Council was formed from verbal requests at our meetings this year and in the March 2015 Agenda. Item 7 of the meeting held on Tue. March 31st was:

1. How to get Involved/Areas of Need:
 - Survey – What is important to you?

- Secretary, Treasurer, Chief of Communications, Field Event Coordinator, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Just for the record, the volunteer board officers were elected at our public meeting in October by a majority of those present. The Officers are: Deborah Kruse – Chairperson & Secretary, Tim Kulton – Co-Chairperson and Treasurer and Bill Deitchman – Project Manager. All of the board members are volunteers and are sacrificing their time to assist the community. The council’s sole objective is to help our residents and community to become more fire safe. We are focused on wildfire planning and vegetation fuel mitigation. Issues with law enforcement, the recreation vendors and with county staff are beyond our charter, scope and control. Additionally, to date, the Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council has not applied for nor has it received any funding, public or private. Voluntary contributions are requested and appreciated.

We encourage you to attend our meetings and become a productive part of our process.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kruse

Tim Kulton

Chairperson

Co-Chairperson

COUNTY COUNSEL
ROBYN TRUITT DRIVON

CHIEF ASS'T. COUNTY COUNSEL

PRINCIPAL ASS'T. COUNTY COUNSEL
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December 11, 2015

Melody Lane
Compass 2 Truth
P.O. Box 598
Coloma, CA. 95613

Re: CPRA dated December 02, 2015, pertaining to the Coloma/Lotus Fire Safe Council.

Dear Ms. Lane:

In response to your CPRA dated December 2, 2015, regarding the Coloma/Lotus Fire Safe Council, the County has the following response:

1. The County has no records "substantiating the application of the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council, the date it was formed, the names of the officers and the method/policies by which they were selected." The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and the various local sub-councils are not County agencies. The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council is a non-profit public benefit corporation formed as a tax exempt organization. The County did not govern their initial formation, does not govern the formation of local sub-councils, and does not select their officers, set their policies or keep their records. They do not submit the names of their officers to the County. Therefore, for documents about the formation of the local councils, and for information about the names of officers and the council's selection policies, I suggest you contact the Fire Safe Council directly. Their website is edcfiresafe.org. Their address is El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, P.O. Box 1011, Diamond Springs, CA 95619, and their phone number is 647-1700.

Members of the Board of Supervisors sometimes attend Fire Safe Council meetings in their district, as they attend other public meetings. To try to help you in your research into timing of formation of the Coloma Lotus Council, I have attached minutes from all of the Board of Supervisors meetings where attendance at Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council meetings was mentioned. In addition, the Fire Safe Council made a presentation to the Board on December 08, 2015, and information about the Fire Safe Council is available on the County's website as part of the agenda for that date. However, I did not see any specific reference to Coloma Lotus in the materials for that day.

Melody Lane
December 10, 2014
Page 2

2. The County has no "copies of contracts/agreements with the Coloma Fire Safe Council" or contracts with "tree trimming/chipping agencies" in the Coloma-Lotus area. We located one contract with a tree service, to perform services on County owned property in Placerville which did not seem responsive to your request but I've attached it for your review.
3. I have attached copies of "all correspondence between Supervisor Ranalli, Tim Kulton, Deborah Kruse and all officers and active participants pertaining to the implementation of the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council."

I hope this is of assistance.

Sincerely,

ROBYN TRUITT DRIVON
County Counsel

By 
Paula F. Frantz
Sr. Deputy County Counsel

cc: Board of Supervisors:
Brian K. Veerkamp, Chair, District III
Ron Mikulaco, District I
Shiva Frentzen, District II
Michael Ranalli, District IV
Sue Novasel, District V

PFF/cp



Compass2Truth

Citizens Serving God in Truth and Liberty

P.O. Box 598
Coloma, CA 95613

December 24, 2015

County Counsel Robyn Truitt Drivon
County Government Center
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: CA Public Record Act Requests – Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council

Dear Ms. Drivon,

Thank you for your letter dated December 17, 2015. However you were in error about a duplicate submittal of the December 2, 2015 CPRA regarding the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council. Note that particular CPRA was submitted to the Clerk of the Board on December 15, 2015 as an attachment referred to in item #4 of my Open Forum presentation. **(See Exhibit A)**

A separate CPRA dated 12/15/15 regarding outside legal contracts was submitted into the public record as document #5. A response from Counsel is due by December 31, 2015.

Compass2Truth specifically requested the *names of the CL FSC officers and how/by whom they were elected*. Despite phone calls, emails and public inquiries made on multiple occasions Supervisor Ranalli, staff and County Counsel have refused to respond to requests for public information regarding the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council (CL FSC). We allege a pattern of violations of **Government Code § 6200-6203**:

6200. Every officer having the custody of any record, map, or book, or of any paper or proceeding of any court, filed or deposited in any public office, or placed in his or her hands for any purpose, is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for two, three, or four years if, as to the whole or any part of the record, map, book, paper, or proceeding, the officer willfully does or permits any other person to do any of the following:

- (a) Steal, remove, or secrete.
- (b) Destroy, mutilate, or deface.
- (c) Alter or falsify.

6201. Every person not an officer referred to in Section 6200, who is guilty of any of the acts specified in that section, is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

6203. (a) Every officer authorized by law to make or give any

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certificate or other writing is guilty of a misdemeanor if he or she makes and delivers as true any certificate or writing containing statements which he or she knows to be false.

(b) Notwithstanding any other limitation of time described in Section 802 of the Penal Code, or any other provision of law, prosecution for a violation of this offense shall be commenced within four years after discovery of the commission of the offense, or within four years after the completion of the offense, whichever is later.

(c) The penalty provided by this section is not an exclusive remedy, and does not affect any other relief or remedy provided by law.

Tim Kulton also refused to reveal this public information to an "active member" of the FSC as evidenced by his email correspondence. It is significant that Mr. Kulton, Supervisor Ranalli, as well as CA State Parks Ranger & RMAC representative Bill Deitchman have all been advised not to speak with me which constitutes a violation of my Civil Rights. **(See Exhibit B)**

It is evident Mr. Kulton's 12/19/15 response was drafted by County Counsel on behalf of "a *private non-profit*, public benefit corporation formed as a tax exempt entity". The CL FSC is a non-government organization (NGO) represented by EDC staff at taxpayer's expense which is in violation of **Government Code Title 18 §241 and §242**.

Additionally please note the following American BAR Association Code of Ethics violations:

Maintaining The Integrity Of The Profession
Rule 8.4 Misconduct

It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

- (a) violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another;
- (b) commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects;
- (c) **engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation;**
- (d) engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;
- (e) state or imply an ability to influence improperly a government agency or official or to achieve results by means that violate the Rules of Professional Conduct or **other law**; or
- (f) knowingly assist a judge or judicial officer in conduct that is a violation of applicable rules of judicial conduct **or other law**.

We are doubtful that Counsel submitted "all correspondence between Supervisor Ranalli, Tim Kulton, Deborah Kruse, and all officers and active participants" as requested in the 12/2/15 CPRA. Accordingly I wish to bring to your recollection the purpose of our 11/12/14 meeting. Note these particular transcript excerpts:

CONCERNING RESOLUTION #113-95 VERSUS AB1234, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM COUNSEL AS PER THE FOLLOWING:

Melody: This is The Guide to the Public Records Act.

Lawyer-Witness#1: OK. I think you sent me that.

Melody: Yes I did. But it says right on here “Not by local.” And the Sheriff has been reminded of that, and I think you were present at a TEA Party Patriots meeting in El Dorado Hills when I brought up this whole thing about the Sheriff... you know...wanting to charge \$10. It’s called Unjust Enrichment. And he says that’s how he... you know...he publicly said this...that’s how he raises funds for his department. It’s against the law. Bad thing to say. And when he was challenged I said, “Oh, so you have to pay for justice?” He closed the meeting out and he stormed out of the room. And that’s a pretty serious charge there.

Robyn: Well, let’s just put a star by that one and I’ll...I’ll take a look at that.

###

Melody: And that’s part of something I want to cover on here too. And if you look under number 3, Obstacles, number 113-95 versus AB1234. Uh, this has to do with the Sheriff’s Department. The Resolution 113-95...in our meetings which Lori has been at practically all of those that we’ve been having with Norma Santiago...this Resolution which is supposed to be on the El Dorado County government website is not on there. And uh...that’s because AB1234 was passed in 2005 which rendered 113-95 obsolete. That had to do with the different fees you can charge, and this is where you get into the ethics training. The whole thing about AB1234 you can’t charge any more than the direct costs of duplication...

Robyn: Uh Melody...Melody...I ah have to just interrupt a...I disagree. And the county as a whole disagrees. I looked...I looked into that for you when you sent the letter about the Sheriff’s resolution. The Sheriff’s resolution has never been rescinded. This is still in effect. When I...when I asked for it from the Clerk’s Office they got it right away. Um, but the Public Records Act still says that you can charge either the direct costs of duplication or a statutory fee. And...

Melody: Not according to what I’ve got.

Robyn: Well...the...the...the Public Records Act in the government code says that you...you can...you...you...it is...(long pause)....

Paula: And that might just to put a star because...

Melody: This is an issue. And just so you know in one of our meetings I think it was in um...it was either in Apr...May or June...when we met with Norma...and Norma confirmed that 113-95 is not on the government website. County Counsel Ed Knapp had gone over this whole deal. I had conversations with Ed Knapp and he agreed. And Norma agreed and said in their conversations with Counsel that 113-95 was rescinded. I was correct...and I’ve got the audio.

Paula: Could you put a star on that one?

Melody: Yeah, put a star on that one because that’s one we’re going to need to follow...

Lawyer-Witness#1: 113-95 would that be a county resolution...or is that...that’s a county resolution, correct?

Paula: It’s a county resolution.

Melody: It’s a county resolution.

Lawyer-Witness#1: 1234 would be superior to that.

Robyn: Yeah...if...if...if it...if it...

Lawyer-Witness#1: State law is superior to county law if there's a conflict.

###

CONCERNING APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO CPRAS WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR REPLY REGARDING INDEXING, IT-BACKUP AND RECORD RETRIEVAL:

Paula: Well...let me just say...what I started to say was um, I haven't been involved as you know with this up until now but I do um...help all of my departments...but I do represent with all the various Public Record Act requests that they get and that's where...that was the basis for what I said was a lot of it is...that...I used to say all of the time that when I first got here that the Keystone Kops don't conspire...They're too stupid to. And...and...(laughter). Our record system is stupid. Let me just start by that. We don't have a well-set forth...um...By the way...are you...are you taping me?

Melody: I am.

###

Lawyer-Witness#1: Well you could say the record system is...difficult.

Paula: OK. Exactly. The record system is antiquated and not necessarily very um...thoroughly integrated because as I said they've been in different... um...different places and there are just various buildings. So it is not as easy as you might think when you said to me...just to the county...there's no such thing as just a county centralized record system. CDA which was...several other departments... kept their own records...their um...(long pause)...their own...er...

Lawyer-Witness#1: They're all over the place...

Paula: ...and they're kept separately.

###

Melody: Now is the County email system and everything else...all of their electronic records backed up every night?

Paula: You know I would not be the right person to ask about all of that. You know I'm not the IT person and people will tell you I'm not that IT savvy. I don't even have a cell phone. I never tape record anybody. Um, I don't...I...I...I tend to be still where I pick my (?)...but my understanding is yes it is backed up um, every night but I...I couldn't guarantee that because I don't work in IT and I've never been down there to see how they do it.

Melody: But my understanding is, especially when you are dealing with government entities, everything has to be backed up. I mean look at...

Lawyer-Witness#1: Unless you're the IRS.

Melody: Yeah. I was going to say...yeah. Look at the IRS. I was going to say that whole missing records were found.

###

Melody: This is one CPRA that I received in the mail where I asked for correspondence and I got maps.

Paula: And my understanding was that the response to that...was...was that...

Melody: But I still haven't got correspondence. (laughter)

Paula: But that's a different issue. Because...because...let's just talk about a different issue. The only one I've done which was October 20th.

###

REGARDING THE INDIVIDUAL/GOVERNMENT ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOW UP, TRACKING AND TIMELY RESPONSES TO CPRAS:

Melody: OK. Is...is there going to be a point person or personnel now that Ross is gone that's going to be coordinating logging and tracking?

Paula: Yes. Our...our...um...(long pause)...our business manager...our...I don't know exactly what her title is...um but she has agreed that she will take on the...the duty...the...our administrative duties...

Lawyer-Witness#1: Our...our meaning the County Counsel.

Melody: Yeah. How's that going to work?

Paula: She...she will be...um...you know...taking...taking the documents and scanning...um...putting them in the...um...putting them...you know...they came in and they went out and...and who I direct them out to...and when...when...

###

Robyn: Can I just...and I think that's kind of a...a...an example...of...what were' trying to do...with this meeting...is a process and with any luck we've got fine-tuned is...you know the spirit of the Public Records Act is...to help...when you ask for some...thing...that may or may not exist but it also may not be the best source of...

Paula: ...the information...

Robyn: ...or most utilitarian. And so if we can just have...you know...Molly is going to be a Nazi about the spreadsheet in term of timing. But Paula and whoever it is as staff can help you in that translation. I think that's what...

The courtesy of your response to these unresolved CPRA issues is expected prior to your departure from EDC employment in January.

Respectfully,

Melody Lane
Founder – Compass2Truth

CC: Sr. Deputy Counsel Paula Franz
Board of Supervisors District 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5
HR Director Pamela Knorr
CSP Counsel Rory Allen

Attachments:

Exhibit A – 12/15/15 Open Forum transcript
Exhibit B – 12/19/15 Kim Kulton email

Melody Lane

From: Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com>
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 8:25 PM
To: 'Joe Harn'; Robyn Drivon
Cc: 'Paula Frantz'; michael.ciccozzi@edcgov.us; Vern R Pierson
Subject: RE: Legal
Attachments: 12-24-15 CL FSC Response to Drivon.doc

Thanks for your email, albeit tardy response to the CPRA.

For clarification the intent of the CPRA was to garner the YTD total of both legal consultants AND legal services.

County Counsel is supposed to be on top of this as per our 11/12/14 meeting with Robyn Drivon and Paula Franz. Per Robyn, *"Molly is going to be a Nazi about the spreadsheet in term of timing (responsive to CPRAs.) But Paula and whoever it is as staff can help you in that translation."*

Don't forget to include in your comprehensive reply the percentage of the county budget/General Fund annually allocated to Law & Justice. Vern Pierson should be able to help provide an answer to that question.

As a reminder Robyn's written response to the attached 12/24/15 inquiry is expected prior to departure from EDC employment.

Regards,

Melody Lane
Founder – Compass2Truth

When law and morality contradict each other the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his sense of morality or losing his respect for the law. ~ Frederick Bastiat ~

From: Joe Harn [<mailto:joe.harn@edcgov.us>]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 5:08 PM
To: Melody Lane
Cc: Paula Frantz
Subject: Fwd: Legal

Melody,

I just became cognizant of your PRA dated 12-15-15. Here is a partial response.

This is a list of attorneys that the County paid during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The list may be incomplete. Some of the attorneys provide consulting services rather than legal services.

A number of the law firms have had a relationship with the County for years.

Joe Harn
Auditor-Controller
El Dorado County

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Keely Giovannoni <keely.giovannoni@edcgov.us>
Date: Mon, Aug 31, 2015 at 4:23 PM
Subject: Re: Legal
To: Joe Harn <joe.harn@edcgov.us>

DEPT	VENDOR	AMOUNT PAID 14/15
02	FOSTER EMPLOYMENT LAW	147.50
02	PRENTICE LONG & EPPERSON	15,627.03
03	CALFEE & KONWINSKI	3,127.50
04	WRIGHT LAW OFFICE	6,127.80
07	ANDREW CAULFIELD	20,083.94
07	BRADY & VINDING	24,188.07
07	CHARLD D JONES A PRO CORP	137.50
07	HANSON BRIDGETT	3,940.89
08	ANWYL, SCOFFIELD & STEPP	32,481.78
08	BRADLEY S THOMAS	3,887.80
08	ANDREW CAULFIELD	135,587.80
08	STEPHAN MASON	35,300.75
08	FOSTER EMPLOYMENT LAW	105,195.56
08	DOWNEY BRAND	4,050.00
08	VALENTINA REINER	92,659.50
08	PORTER SCOTT	100,733.94
08	JEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	149,268.70
08	JEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	8,079.50
08	MEYERS NAVE RIBACK SILVER	46,639.90
08	MURCH BASSOFF & ASSOC	10,350.00
08	SHAW VALENZA	29,645.00
08	MNE SLOAN HOLZMAN & SAKAI	16,133.62
08	ANGELO, KILDAY, & KILDUFF	9,536.81
30	MEYERS NAVE RIBACK SILVER	36,894.16
34	ABBOTT & KINDERMAN	43,013.96
34	RANDALL MORRISON	14,835.83
34	STEPHAN VALENTINE	600.00
40	WRIGHT LAW OFFICE	10,853.30
42	LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS BRUEN	5,743.56
42	THE GALLAGHER LAW GROUP	4,745.00
43	LEGALESE ATTY SVCS	2,355.00
53	LEGALESE ATTY SVCS	2,275.00
53	JEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	6,442.70
72	DOWNEY BRAND	3,003.50
79	AMERICAN EAGLE ATTY SVCS	11,451.00
		<u>994,943.90</u>
CONFLICT PANE	VARIOUS	223,221.15

Keely Giovannoni
Auditor-Controllers Office
El Dorado County
(530) 621-5421
(530) 295-2535 FAX