

Open Forum BOS 11/18/2025

Melody Lane – Founder Compass2Truth

11/18/25 OF Ashton PRA noncompliant

On July 17th I submitted a PRA requesting signed copies of all contracts or consulting service agreements between EDC and former CAO Don Ashton. On July 24th I received an anonymous response, **presumably from County Counsel**, stating that no responsive documents exist.

However, he stated that Don Ashton is an affiliated consultant for MRG, LLC, which the County has a contract for other work. The El Dorado Hills CSD also has a contract with MRG where Mr. Ashton has provided consulting services. Although a copy of the MRG contract was offered to me, the subsequent email failed to attach the contract. Additionally, the county considered the matter closed.

I responded, *"There was no attachment to this email. As previously requested, please email the document directly to my email address...An explanation is in order as to why the original content of this PRA thread is missing, and why does the County consider the PRA "matter closed"? Typically, that is a pretty good indicator that the County has something to hide. In fact, about two weeks ago I spotted Don Ashton at a local eatery with Supervisors George Turnbo and Lori Parlin. It didn't appear they were discussing the weather for 2.5 hours."*

There is still no county response to my PRA. In fact, it is evident counsel is continuing the trend in **lawfare** to avoid transparency and accountability.

You'll recall in 2022 Joe Harn was ordered by the Superior court to cut a check for \$115,000 for attorney fees, **at the expense of taxpayers**, following the lawsuit Dean Getz filed seeking emails between the county and Parker Development. The Mountain Democrat reported, *"David Livingston insisted that Getz' request is a rare exception. In fact, of the thousands of Public Records Act requests the county received over the past 10 years, this is the only request that has led to litigation."*

Dean Getz concluded, *"It's unbelievable that the county has continued to play this game...It seems like they're more interested in **delaying the production of whatever those emails uncover**, and it doesn't really matter what it costs because it's **not their money**."*

In another example of Bureaucratic Shenanigans, District Attorney James Clinchard had the audacity to email me, *"We have responded to your PRA and no further response is forthcoming. **Feel free to exercise your "right to prosecute for violation of PRA laws."***

The point is, the county is not above the law, nor should it be necessary for constituents to resort to lawsuits just to obtain documents that government is required to produce. Mr. Livingston, your public response, please.

Kim Dawson

From: melody.lane@reagan.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 4:36 PM
To: David A Livingston; Kim Dawson; cob@edcgov.us; Sue Hennike; James Clinchard; George Turnboo; BOS-District I; BOS-District II; BOS-District III; BOS-District IV; BOS-District V
Subject: 11/18/25 BOS Open Forum Public Comments

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Please ensure the entirety of my below public comments made during today's BOS Open Forum are entered into the public record.

Also note, for the record, that David Livingston violated § 54954.2 E (3) and § 54954.2(a) of the Brown Act by failing to respond to my public inquiry pursuant about the status of the PRA that I submitted in July:

§ 54954.2 E (3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3.

Where a member of the public raises an issue which has not yet come before the legislative body, the item may be briefly discussed but no action may be taken at that meeting. The purpose of the discussion is to permit a member of the public to raise an issue or problem with the legislative body or to permit the legislative body to provide information to the public, provide direction to its staff, or schedule the matter for a future meeting. (§ 54954.2(a).)

Melody Lane

Founder - Compass2Truth

Brown Act Preamble: The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people do not yield the sovereignty to the bodies that serve them. The people insist on remaining informed to retain control over the legislative bodies they have created.

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#

7/17/25:

Pursuant to my rights under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.), I ask to obtain **via email** the following documents:

1. Signed copies of any/all contracts or consulting service agreements that exist between former CAO Don Ashton and El Dorado County from January 1, 2023 to the present date of this PRA.

To avoid unnecessary delays or costs of duplication, electronic copies are acceptable and may be emailed directly to melody.lane@reagan.com in **pdf format**.

7/24/25:

Good morning, Melody,

No responsive documents exist. Please note that Mr. Ashton is an 'affiliated consultant' for MRG, LLC, with which the County has a contract for other work. However, Mr. Ashton has not performed any work for the County through MRG, LLC to date. **Please let me know if you would like to receive a copy of the contract between the County and MRG, LLC.**

We are aware that Mr. Ashton has consulted with El Dorado Hills Community Services District which is a separate entity from the County of El Dorado. In the event you would like to contact them, we have provided their contact information below.

www.edhcsd.org

El Dorado Hills Community Services District

1021 Harvard Way, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

(916) 933-6624

The County considers this matter closed.

Thank you.

7/24/25:

Thank you for your response.

Yes, please do send me a digital copy of the MRG, LLC contract with the County by emailing it directly to melody.lane@reagan.com.

However, an explanation is in order as to why the original content of this PRA thread submitted on 7/17/25 is missing, and why does the County consider the PRA "matter closed"? Typically that is a pretty good indicator that the County has something to hide. In fact, about two weeks ago I spotted Don Ashton at a local eatery with Supervisors George Turnboo and Lori Parlin. It didn't appear they were discussing the weather for 2.5 hours.

Compliance with FOIA laws and Good Governance equates to total government transparency with the public.

Lastly, I would also appreciate it if the sender of this response would appropriately identify themselves by **name and title**.

7/28/25:

Good morning, Melody,

Please refer to the attachments "B - 7544 Phase 1 MRG Agreement 23-0688.pdf" and "Executed Agreement for Services 7049" attached to this request.

Your original Word document can also be found under the "attachments" files of this request. The following text from the Word document:

1. Signed copies of any/all contracts or consulting service agreements that exist between former CAO Don Ashton and El Dorado County from January 1, 2023 to the present date of this PRA. appears to be the request being made and is what we responded to. If that is not the case, if you are also requesting additional information, please let us know.

We will follow up regarding sending the contracts to your email directly as well.

Thank you,

Heather Andersen

Administrative Technician

7/28/25:

There was no attachment to this email. As previously requested, please email the document directly to melody.lane@reagan.com.

Also, please explain why the entire conversation thread is not viewable below as in past PRAs.

From: James A. Clinchard <james.clinchard@edcda.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 1:26 PM
To: melody.lane@reagan.com
Subject: Re: Public Records Request :: P007404-110424

Ms Lane,

We have responded to your PRA and no further response is forthcoming. Feel free to exercise your "right to prosecute for violation of PRA laws."