

Last Thursday evening I attended a Vegetation Management meeting led by Kristine Guth at Cool Hall where there were approximately 75 people in attendance. Residents were justifiably upset when they didn't receive straight answers to very direct questions. In fact, that was the reason 80 percent of the crowd stormed out early of a similar meeting held at Coloma Grange Hall last May.

Kristine stated that Ordinance 5101 is a "fluid and evolving" document which many people found disturbing. At that time I seized the opportunity to share when the Coloma FSC refused to provide certain residents a Right to Enter Consent Form to participate in a grant-funded vegetation clearing program. I also raised concerns about the wording of this ordinance, particularly as it affects citizen's Fourth Amendment rights to privacy and freedom from unreasonable intrusions by the government. The same concerns about government overreach and oaths of office were also addressed by several attendees during yesterday's Taxpayers Association meeting.

Public safety is undeniably important, but so are the fundamental rights of the people. The Supreme Law of the Land is the national Constitution, and I'm sure you are aware that any law that is repugnant to the Constitution is null and void. Article VI of the U.S. Constitution states it trumps state laws as well as local laws, ordinances, regulations and ordinances. However that didn't seem to faze county counsel, or whoever drafted this ordinance. For example in the *amended* ordinance 5101 the following language raised red flags:

1. *For purposes of this Chapter, the "enforcement official" is the CAO (Don Ashton) or other County employee(s) as designated by the CAO. (Who granted the CAO that kind of authority? Furthermore, what MOUs are in place with PG&E that allow ACRT, Mtn. Enterprises, Davey Tree Services, use of drones, Google Earth, or any other form of surveillance on private property? Not even the Sheriff is permitted on private property without advance notice or permission. Anyone who enters my property without my consent is going to be greeted with a shotgun, and there are plenty of others in this county who feel the same way.)*
2. *An investigative or enforcement official, or personnel acting under his or her direction, may enter upon private or public property whenever necessary to enforce or administer the provisions of this chapter. The County may request an inspection warrant. (Not only is that against 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Rights, it sounds more like a Police State.)*
3. *Legal charge against the owner, a lien imposed on & recorded against the property. (Again, I'm just saying...it sounds like tactics comparable to those used by the Gestapo.)*
4. *"Enforcement Official" shall set the matter for hearing before the Hearing Officer. (Does that hearing take place in front of the Planning Commission, a civil judge, or the BOS?) Everyone knows Code Enforcement doesn't do its job & the Sheriff won't respond to reports of illegal fireworks or conditions at campgrounds that*

pose a threat to public safety. Furthermore, there are *no emergency evacuation plans* in place that the public is aware of which is a responsibility of OES, not to mention the deplorable condition of roads that don't allow proper egress for fire equipment.

5. ***Collection for Costs of Abatement*** - This section sounds like the BOS have been delegated the authority to be judge, jury and executioner. Need you be reminded, the only power you have is derived from the consent of the governed.
6. Lastly, it needs to be brought to your attention the Amended clean copy of this ordinance still has former Clerk to the Board Jim Mitrisin's name on it.

We are fighting for the preservation of our God given rights of sovereignty and free will, we are fighting for the protection of our nation's most sacred document, the Constitution.

In closing, the words of James Madison written in 1788 ring even more true today: *"It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or **revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man who knows what the law is today can guess what it will be tomorrow.**"*

Madam Clerk: Please enter this transcript into the public record.