

County of El Dorado

Historical Museum Commission

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY
5:06 pm, Nov 12, 2010

El Dorado County Historical Museum

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November 8, 2010

Supervisor Norma Santiago, Chairman
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Supervisor Santiago,

On behalf of the Historical Museum Commission, I am writing to you regarding the CAO's proposal to cut the County Museum's budget by \$50,000 for the 2011/2012 fiscal year.

We realize that the County has a serious fiscal crisis to deal with and we know that everyone has to make cuts; however, the Historical Museum Commissioners are deeply concerned about the proposed 45% reduction in the Museum budget. This reduction would reduce the Museum Administrator's position to just three days a week (24 hours a week). The Museum Administrator currently supervises approximately 80 volunteers, coordinates interaction between the museum and several historical societies, and does out-reach to the community by attending events and displaying information about the history of the community and advertizing the museum. The Sheriff's Department, Surveyor's Office, Cemetery Advisory Committee, to name a few County Departments, all depend upon the Museum Administrator for services. Having a professional Museum curator has brought professional museum and archival standards to the Museum for the volunteers to follow regarding policies and procedures. The volunteers are just that. They offer a wide variety of skills but most volunteers only contribute in their specialized area of interest and their contributions to the museum are often interrupted by life's pleasures and crises.

A reduction of \$50,000 would result in a reduction in the number of days the County Museum would be open to the public and limit the Museum Administrator's effectiveness in promoting the museum to the public. This cut would also decrease the time the Administrator had to supervise volunteers and use their varied talents to the fullest. We respectfully request that the cut be adjusted to \$30,000 so that the Museum Administrator would be able to work four days a week (32 hours). The Museum Commission will work with you to cut costs in the museum operations and diligently find ways to create new funding sources, such as charging admission fees and other fees for services. Reducing the Museum's Net County Costs by \$50,000 will have significant negative impact upon the County Museum now and for the future. Thank you for considering this alternative.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Wurm, Chair
El Dorado County Historical Museum Commission

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