

During the 5/3 meeting Chief Lloyd Ogan admitted that the Fire District is a political entity, but it is distinctly separate from the county. Nevertheless, he is still a public servant whose salary is paid by our tax dollars. M. Lane

# 35

On May 10<sup>th</sup> I sent Chief Ogan an email concerning Coloma resident concerns, particularly those of us who live on the north side of the Mt. Murphy road bridge. I also requested the data from the 5/3 power point presentation. Friday evening he replied,

Hello Melody,

I apologize for the information that you requested not being sent. Kathleen has been out of the office most of this week. River would not have access to the information, so she probably forwarded the request to Kathleen. I will double check on Monday and we will forward you the information by noon on Monday.

I will restate again the Fire District sympathizes and agrees that improvements are needed on the Mt. Murphy Rd. However, and I restate, the Fire District has no authority or jurisdiction to affect road repairs or upgrades. County DOT or CalTrans are the two agencies with authority and jurisdiction for the roadways in our District. We routinely make requests to each agency when we identify hazards. But, we have no ability to make the changes ourselves.

Wild land arson fires are investigated by Cal Fire in our area because it is part of the State Area Resource mission. We cooperate with them in those investigations, but they are the lead agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to dialogue regarding these issues. We will be in touch on Monday.

Although Chief Ogan agreed Mt. Murphy Road is in need of repairs and improvement, he never "dialogued" nor did he "restate" anything as he falsely stated.

During the 5/6/19 CL Fire Safe meeting held at Coloma Grange Hall there was nothing but smoke and mirrors causing approximately 80% of residents to walk out early in exasperation with the dog & pony show. The remaining 20% were angered by lack of substantive answers to their concerns, especially the fact that we will NOT get Station 74 reopened, nor will we get any guarantee of services to help prevent insurance providers from dropping policyholders or substantially increasing premiums.

Chief Ogan never had his staff provide the data he promised either. Same problem with DOT Rafael Martinez during yesterday's Taxpayers Association meeting--all smoke and mirrors but NO government transparency or accountability. Taxes and salaries go up, while public services go down. We don't want hallway conversations and empty promises. The public is entitled to honest services and straight answers to their direct questions.

5/14/19 BOS #22 #33 #35

Melody Lane

From: Lloyd Ogan <OganL@eldofire.com>  
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 5:53 PM  
To: Melody Lane  
Subject: Re: Coloma-Lotus Fire Tax

Hello Melody,

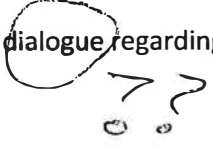
I apologize for the information that you requested not being sent. Kathleen has been out of the office most of this week. River would not have access to the information, so she probably forwarded the request to Kathleen. I will double check on Monday and we will forward you the information by noon on Monday. *Never happened*

I will restate again the Fire District sympathizes and agrees that improvements are needed on the Mt. Murphy Rd. However, and I restate, the Fire District has no authority or jurisdiction to affect road repairs or upgrades. County DOT or CalTrans are the two agencies with authority and jurisdiction for the roadways in our District. We routinely make requests to each agency when we identify hazards. But, we have no ability to make the changes ourselves.

Wild land arson fires are investigated by Cal Fire in our area because it is part of the State Area Resource mission. We cooperate with them in those investigations, but they are the lead agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to dialogue regarding these issues. We will be in touch on Monday.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Ogan  
Fire Chief  
El Dorado County Fire Protection District

Sent from my iPhone

- > On May 10, 2019, at 1:22 PM, Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com> wrote:
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- > Chief Ogan,
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- > During the 5/3/19 Fire Tax meeting I requested Kathy provide me a digital copy of the handouts. When I provided her with a business card containing my contact information, Kathy assured the info would be sent to me after the meeting. When I did not receive her promised email, I called after hours and left a message requesting a copy of the handouts be emailed to me.
- >
- > Again in the afternoon of Monday 5/6/19 I called your office and left a message requesting the handouts. Shortly thereafter River returned my call. After I provided River with my contact information she assured me the materials would be promptly sent. As of this writing I have not yet received any of the requested data from your department.
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- > As I expressed during the Taxpayers Association meeting as well as during the 5/3 Fire Tax Board meeting, residents on the north side of the Mt. Murphy Road Bridge have expressed to the county for many years their valid concerns about the hazardous road conditions, lack of emergency egress in the event of another catastrophic wildfire, and lack of law enforcement to respond to reports of illegal fireworks. It is another Paradise disaster waiting to happen. All it takes is one disabled vehicle to create a roadblock, trap evacuees, and lives would be lost. Even if Station 74 was to be reopened and fully staffed, what good would it do if the emergency equipment can't obtain timely egress?

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- > Five arson fires, including the 2007 arson fire ignited by 3rd generation fire-fighter Ben Cunha, have been ignited either directly on my property or within ¼ mile from my home. For this reason I keep an impeccable defensible space. The Cunha arson fire claimed the life of my beloved golden retriever, and that tragedy also generated personal phone calls from Capitol legislators to my place of employment at Sacramento City Hall. Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva was the first to call me after he received photos of Mt. Murphy ablaze and the helicopters landing in my back yard to disperse firefighters. Congressman Doolittle, Senator Cox and Ted Gaines also took time to call me, and Governor Schwarzenegger sent me a personal letter. All these individuals recognized the significance of arson fire at the site of the Marshall Gold Discovery Historic State Park; however it was deliberately swept under the carpet of government bureaucracy.
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- > Although Cunha was held under \$10 million bail bond, same as the King Fire arsonist, he only spent one year incarcerated and was then shipped out of state to spare his family further embarrassment. It is significant all the photos of the entire Cunha family were removed from the walls of the Fire House Café in Shingle Springs for the same reason.
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- > Thirty minutes was allotted for public comment during the 5/3/19 Fire Board meeting. At that time I stood for 12 minutes waiting at the podium as you droned on with responses to inquiries from your board. Growing weary, I finally interrupted and asked whether this was still public comment? However when I had a chance to speak you never answered my question: How do you plan to mitigate the hazardous conditions in Coloma surrounding the Marshall Gold Discovery Park? As you are aware, this region is inundated with tourists during fire season. I had to leave for an appointment, but it is my understanding that most of the other citizens were not permitted the opportunity to speak. Apparently the outcome of the \$96/parcel tax increase was predetermined by your Board rendering public comments irrelevant and an exercise in futility.
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- > During the 5/6 Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe meeting at the Coloma Grange Hall the majority of the residents left in exasperation at the dog-n-pony show. The ultimate question was: What do Coloma Lotus residents actually get for the \$96/parcel tax increase? The only thing made clear was that Coloma-Lotus is NOT going to get station 74 re-opened, nor were we provided any viable options. The few who stayed afterwards to ask questions were obviously upset by the smoke-and-mirrors and avoidance tactics of your staff.
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- > During the 5/3 Board meeting you stated that you are a political entity, but distinctly separate from the county. In short, you are a public servant whose salary is paid via resident's property taxes. That means you are accountable to "we the people." What is most disturbing is the overall reluctance of your department to provide substantial data and straight answers to our direct questions. We ran into the same problem last year after we met with Assemblyman Frank Bigelow at his Capitol office. I highly suggest you closely examine the attached notification of legal responsibility addressed to Assemblyman Bigelow and note the photos. Read as well this article distributed on national news: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/california-lawmakers-traveled-to-hawaii-with-utility-executives-as-wildfires-raged> "Those in attendance at the Wailea conference included California Assembly members Frank Bigelow, Bill Brough, Ian Calderon, Jim Cooper, Tom Daly, Heath Flora, Jim Frazier, Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Freddie Rodriguez and Blanca Rubio. State Sens. Ben Hueso and Cathleen Galgiani also attended, nonprofit Consumer Watchdog reports. Bigelow and Brough are Republicans. The rest of the group are Democrats.
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- > A major question still on the minds of Coloma residents requires a direct answer: Are residents with one-acre parcels going to be charged the same as someone who owns 1,000 acres?
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- > Another concern is that 70% of El Dorado County is public land owned by American River Conservancy, BLM and CA State Parks. Government is exempt from property taxes, so essentially that means residents are subsidizing those entities with increased taxes. To coin a phrase from history, "Taxation without representation is tyranny." So how would you respond to that statement?
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> Since this correspondence is relevant to items on the 5/14/19 BOS agenda, the courtesy of your timely written response is greatly appreciated in order that it may be disseminated to all interested parties.

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> Sincerely,

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> Melody Lane

> Founder – Compass2Truth

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> "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 ~

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> <ML Affidavit-Bigelow.pdf>