



Jim Mitrisin <jim.mitrisin@edcgov.us>

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**Fwd:**

1 message

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**Ronald Briggs** <ron.briggs@edcgov.us>

Mon, Dec 8, 2014 at 4:20 PM

To: James Mitrisin <jim.mitrisin@edcgov.us>, The BOSONE <bosone@edcgov.us>, The BOSTWO <bostwo@edcgov.us>, The BOSTHREE <bosthree@edcgov.us>, The BOSFOUR <bosfour@edcgov.us>, The BOSFIVE <bosfive@edcgov.us>, Pamela Knorr <pamela.knorr@edcgov.us>, Peter Hecht <phecht@sacbee.com>, cdaley@mtdemocrat.net

Jim  
Please attach my remarks to legistar no 14 1649  
Thx  
rb

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: "Ron Briggs" <rbriggs@calweb.com>  
Date: Dec 8, 2014 4:16 PM  
Subject:  
To: <ron.briggs@edcgov.us>  
Cc:

## Legistar # 14-1649

District IV Supervisor Ron Briggs

December 9, 2014

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I am not here to indict individuals

Rather I am here to pick up the standard of frugality for taxpayers and speak to adherence of county strategy.

I know firsthand the sense of a seemingly inexhaustible supply of money.

It doesn't exist.

Not personally and certainly not in government.

For the past eight years I have heard at this dais each of you, your predecessors, and from most of the affected elected officials who will benefit from this giveaway, the battle cry of less government, "no new taxes, I work for you, end the unfunded liability. And hold me

accountable”

### Board Strategy:

Our action of November 2013 was informed, thoroughly vetted, and most importantly, part of our strategy that seeks to restructure the over 800+ classifications we have for 1,700 fte's.

It was prudent then and prudent now.

Part of today's agenda authorizes a class and comparable study when complete will be the basis for the restructuring.

November 2013's action was done with foresight as it anticipated the class and comp study to be finished mid to late 2015. The completed study will allow the board to sweep away decades of ad hoc / haphazard job classifications by resetting the county pay scales for ALL its employees.

This means by January 2016 the board has an opportunity to readjust the higher and higher public employee salaries.

We acted in November 2013 with purpose. The Government Code strictly prohibits any reduction of an elected official in the current term.

By acting affirmatively in November 2013 the Board set in motion its strategic ability to cleanly reset ALL employees and department heads salaries.

It has been widely reported to our board over 50% of our work force will be of retirement age in next couple years. In next five years that percentage grows to 65%.

We, us, the Board, past and present, decided to take charge of the infamous “unfunded liability”.

During the past seven years, through bargaining, we have returned the burden of retirement health benefits to the individual employees along with the PERS contributions. We took on the task of reducing special pays and frivolous extra pay schemes.

In 2016 the County, this board, will have an opportunity to “Y rate”

existing employees and make sweeping changes to salaries.

A radical, positive reform that taxpayers will relish and employees will applaud because a sound salary and benefits schedule indicate fiscal solvency.

The County of El Dorado will lead the state with these reforms giving our employees fair and competitive compensation and benefits along with a stable general fund insuring future job security.

This strategy started in 2008 and has continued in our bargaining contracts with unions and unrepresented employees. November 2013 was the county's opportunity to make the pieces fit.

Supporting the extra pay schemes today, December 9, 2014, frustrates years of planning and implementation of sound fiscal strategy .

Supporting these extra pay schemes today forecloses this and a future Board from any action until January 2019. Wait four more years.

Personal opinion:

Where was all this outrage in 2014 before or during the election cycle? Doesn't it seem a little convenient here, with three weeks left in the calendar year and almost six months away from elections this matter materializes on our agenda?

A former Supervisor was recently convicted of voting for a program of which he personally benefitted from.

I agree with this standard, public office is not for people who seek only what they can get from their service.

Being an elected official is a voluntary act. We hold our office's in the public's trust and act for them, not our own.

So where is the line?

The Interim CAO comments this \$140,000 has no net county cost because there is room in their budgets.

Really!

If the auditors warning of bad fiscal times are here because of a bad budget. Then let's start with how many other items are in what was supposed to be a bad budget. Maybe the department heads can show the board a line item budget pointing to areas of fluff.

If the auditors warning of bad fiscal times are imminent the 2015 Board will need to choose from one of the below to make up the \$140,000.

- Layoff one Deputy Sheriff
- Layoff two fiscal admin tech
- Cut library DAYS, not hours
- Reduce animal control services
- Reduce veteran services
- Cut senior day care days
- Reduce road fund
- Furlough twelve fte's one day for a year
- Eliminate one freshly minted position in auditors office
- Layoff one district attorney investigator
- Layoff treasure tax collector quantitative analyst
- Layoff one assistant surveyor
- Layoff most of recorder clerks staff
- Eliminate both CASA & Center for Domestic Violence contribution
- Reduce aid to fire by 17%

Reducing general fund shortfalls is a messy affair because the board has very few alternatives.

Do not dismiss how large \$140,000 is.

Please, do not trade elected officials extra pay bonuses for real

people and real services.

They are not the same.

I urge each of you, stay the course, keep this county on a fiscally sound track.

Vote NO on 26 (1) reinstating the gimmicks.

Respectfully,

Ron Briggs

District IV Supervisor

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