



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Public Comment 9/10 Item 25 - Recommendation to Table

1 message

Andy Nevis <andynevis@gmail.com>

Fri, Sep 6, 2019 at 6:06 PM

To: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us, don.ashton@edcgov.us, creighton.avila@edcgov.us, Edc Cob <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Dear Supervisors,

I encourage you to table Item 25, which would take the initial steps to form a zone of benefit for a potential cemetery tax. At this time, there does not appear to be a realistic path for such a tax proposal to receive two-thirds support in the March 2020 election.

This recommendation is not based on personal hostility towards the idea of contributing to maintain our historic cemeteries - I am aware that there is a significant need. However, there is no sense spending taxpayer dollars to plan for an election when that election is unlikely to succeed.

To get a sense of the community's opinion on this topic, I conducted a survey on the "El Dorado County Chat" Facebook page. This page is nonpartisan and is known for having members across the ideological spectrum. The survey was nonscientific, but the nearly 200 responses were overwhelmingly negative, many emphatically so. I've included a link to the survey at the bottom of the email (it can be viewed even if you are not a Facebook member).

As CAO Ashton stated at a recent LAFCO meeting, "The community has spoken several times - there's no interest in raising taxes". Indeed, recent election results confirm a strong sentiment against tax increases in El Dorado County, and it's hard to believe that a cemetery tax is going to break that trend.

Given this reality, I would encourage you to table this tax proposal and focus on other ways to support the county's cemeteries, including private sector and philanthropic efforts. There may be a time in the future when the voters would be willing to approve a cemetery tax, but that time is not March 2020.

Here is the link to the Facebook survey: https://m.facebook.com/groups/101394773567059/?ref=group_header&view=group#!/groups/101394773567059?view=permalink&id=868147860225076&anchor_composer=false&ref=group_header

Sincerely,

Andy Nevis

Shingle Springs

Sent from my iPhone