

BUS 4/11/2025 Items 7 & 8
Consent Calendar

Public Comment to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Good morning, Supervisors,

My name is Lee Tannenbaum, President of the El Dorado County Taxpayers Association.

I'm here to strongly request that Items 7 and 8 be pulled from the consent calendar. These are not routine items. They are significant financial actions that deserve public transparency and open discussion. The public deserves an opportunity to provide their input.

Let me speak directly to Item 8 and Section 504 of the County Charter.

Section 504 was created specifically to ensure that Deputy Sheriff I/II positions remain competitively compensated with comparable sworn law enforcement roles in other counties. That's a legitimate and limited purpose.

But what this Board is doing now — and what it has been doing for years — is stretching 504 far beyond its original intent. The misuse of 504 didn't start today. The County has been gradually expanding its application for years, applying it to non-sworn staff who were never intended to be covered by it. This current action simply pushes that expansion even further. The attachments to Item 8 reveal a list of non-sworn positions being swept into the 504 process — including county attorneys, administrative managers, analysts, and even the CAO.

These employees are not deputies. They don't wear a badge or face the same field risks. Yet under the banner of 504, they're being granted raises as high as 35%, with some increases reaching \$30,000 or more per person.

This is happening while the County faces a \$20 million deficit.

That's the irony. You've cut tourism and economic development, you're warning residents about tax increases — and at the same time, you're using a law enforcement compensation mechanism to deliver massive pay raises to well-paid administrative professionals.

This isn't fiscal discipline. It's backdoor spending. Section 504 was never designed to be a blanket salary adjustment tool for internal staff. Expanding it in this way — without oversight, without public explanation — is simply wrong.

And burying it in the consent calendar? That's not transparency. That's maneuvering.

If these raises are necessary, then explain them publicly. Justify the reclassifications. Show

the public why this is responsible budgeting.

But don't hide it in the consent calendar.

Again, I respectfully urge this Board to pull Items 7 and 8 from the consent calendar, open them for full discussion, and explain to the taxpayers of El Dorado County why Section 504 continues to be expanded and misapplied — especially during a financial crisis.

Because right now — it doesn't make sense.

Thank you.