

L. Parlin Public Comment 'B's 1/12/16  
on Consent Calendar

Dear Supervisors

It is great to see that our new Public Notification Ordinance has already been put to use in notifying the public about a proposed development, specifically the upcoming Dixon Ranch project. As a result, there is already feedback on the Ordinance for improvements on future notifications.



These signs are intended to be viewed as people drive by in their cars. So, to make it more effective, it should have less words, and bolder text.

Here is an example:

# Proposed Development

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## DIXON RANCH

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AGENCY, PLANNING DIVISION  
(530) 621-5355**



**[www.edcgov.us/Planning](http://www.edcgov.us/Planning)**

Also, it shows in the photos below that it is very difficult to read the sign when it is placed parallel to the road in such close proximity. So I would also suggest that when the signs will be placed in close proximity to the road, that they be placed perpendicular to the road for maximum exposure as people drive by in their cars.

1 of 2

And we all agreed that the County's website and/or a QR code would be on the signs, and that didn't happen with the Dixon Ranch sign. So that addition is also included in the example.

This is a step in the right direction and I thank you for the opportunity to make suggestions so that this can be a great communication tool for El Dorado County.



M. Lane Public Comment BOS 1/12/16  
on Consent Calendar

Melody Lane

**From:** Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 10:58 AM  
**To:** Jim Mitrising; edc.cob@edcgov.us; michael.ranalli@edcgov.us; ron.mikulaco@edcgov.us  
**Cc:** larry.combs@edcgov.us; Paula Frantz; michael.ciccozzi@edcgov.us; bosfive@edcgov.us; bosfour@edcgov.us; bosone@edcgov.us; bosthree@edcgov.us; bostwo@edcgov.us  
**Subject:** 1/12/15 BOS Agenda Items...  
**Attachments:** County Council Response CPRA dated 12-02-15 Melody Lane.pdf

There are several issues requiring public transparency and accountability relevant to the 1/12/15 BOS agenda.

*\*Note: Members of the public have broad constitutional rights to comment on any subject relating to the business of the governmental body. Any attempt to restrict the content of such speech must be narrowly tailored to effectuate a compelling state interest. Specifically, the courts found that policies that prohibited members of the public from criticizing [school district] employees were unconstitutional. (Leventahal v. Vista Unified School Dist. (1997) 973 F. Supp. 951 Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School dist. (1996) 936 F. Supp. 719.) These decisions found that prohibiting critical comments was a form of **viewpoint discrimination**, and that such a prohibition promoted discussion **artificially geared** toward praising (and maintaining) the **status quo**, therefore foreclosing **meaningful public dialog**.*

*The Act provides criminal misdemeanor penalties for certain violations. Specifically, the Act punishes attendance by a member of a body at a meeting where action is taken in violation of the Act, and where the member intends to **deprive the public of information** to which the member knows or has reason to know the public is entitled. (§ 54959.) The term "action taken" as defined by section 54952.6 includes a collective decision, commitment or promise by a majority of the members of a body. The fact that the decision is tentative rather than final does **not shield participants from criminal liability**; where "action" within the meaning of the statute was taken would be a factual question in each case. (61 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 283, 292-293 (1978).)*

Please publicly post the entirety of this correspondence to Items #7 & 14 on the 1/12/15 BOS Consent previously requested to be pulled for public discussion.

Also include the entirety of this correspondence with items #29 and #32 for public discussion.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

*Melody Lane*

**Founder, Compass2Truth**  
**Conservatives Serving God in Truth & Liberty**

**"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 ~**

**From:** Tim Kulton [mailto:tkulton@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2015 2:22 PM  
**To:** Fire- Melody Lane  
**Cc:** Deborah S Kruse  
**Subject:** Responding to your request...

Date: Dec. 19, 2015

Dear Ms. Lane:

We are writing in response to your several recent contacts both in person and through email and thank you for your interest in the Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council.

The Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council (CLFSC) is a newly formed associate of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDCFSC). The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council is a **private non-profit**, public benefit corporation formed as a tax exempt entity. The word "County" in the title refers to a geographic area and does not imply that the EDCFSC is a part of El Dorado County Government.

As the EDCFSC is a **private corporation it is not subject to the Brown Act and is not subject to public records laws or the freedom of information act.** Even though the council is not required by law to comply with these regulations, the council and its leadership strive to maintain transparency and to the extent possible follow the intent of these laws. The meetings and agendas are published in advance and **meeting notes or minutes are posted for public access.** The public is encouraged to attend the meetings and there is a public comment period at each meeting where members of the public community can make their views known to all.

It seemed to me that your questions in front of the Argonaut would be more appropriate at one of our public meetings, or our web site where everyone could hear/see the questions as well as the answers. In fact, as open and transparent public meetings is one of your stated objectives, we agree and invite you to attend and participate.

Our Council was formed from verbal requests at our meetings this year and in the March 2015 Agenda. Item 7 of the meeting held on Tue. March 31st was:

1. How to get Involved/Areas of Need:

- Survey – What is important to you?
- Secretary, Treasurer, Chief of Communications, Field Event Coordinator, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Just for the record, the volunteer board officers were elected at our public meeting in October by a majority of those present. The Officers are: Deborah Kruse – Chairperson & Secretary, Tim Kulton – Co-Chairperson and Treasurer and Bill Deitchman – Project Manager. All of the board members are volunteers and are sacrificing their time to assist the community. The council’s sole objective is to help our residents and community to become more fire safe. We are focused on wildfire planning and vegetation fuel mitigation. Issues with law enforcement, the recreation vendors and with county staff are beyond our charter, scope and control. Additionally, to date, the Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council has not applied for nor has it received any funding, public or private. Voluntary contributions are requested and appreciated.

We encourage you to attend our meetings and become a productive part of our process.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kruse

Tim Kulton

Chairperson

Co-Chairperson

## Melody Lane

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**From:** Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2016 6:33 PM  
**To:** edc.cob@edcgov.us; Jim Mitrison (jim.mitrison@edcgov.us); michael.ranalli@edcgov.us  
**Cc:** larry.combs@edcgov.us; 'bosfive@edcgov.us'; bosfour@edcgov.us; 'bosone@edcgov.us'; 'bosthree@edcgov.us'; 'bostwo@edcgov.us'  
**Subject:** Please pull Consent items #7 & #14 for public discussion - Add public comments to #29 & #32  
**Attachments:** 9-30-14 Arsonists.docx; Request for a Come to Jesus meeting...

Please pull Consent items #7 & #14 for public discussion. These public safety matters need to be addressed as per the attached correspondence prior to the BOS taking any action:

7. 13-1542 Chief Administrative Office recommending the Board approve and authorize the Chair to sign Amendment V to Agreement for Services 228-F1111 with the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, providing \$63,996 in Title III funding for fire prevention and planning services as described in Title III of Public Law 110-343, and extending the term to June 30, 2017, pending Counsel and Risk approval and minor revisions.

14. 16-0022 Supervisor Ranalli recommending the Board authorize the Chair to sign a letter in support of the Cleveland-Ice House Forest Health Project, a proposal to improve forest health, fire resiliency, and wildlife habitat using a combination of mechanical treatments (thinning, chipping, and masticating brush and smaller trees); hand treatments to include brush cutting, hand thinning, pruning, and prescribed understory burning; and road maintenance activities within the Cleveland-Ice House Plantations on the Pacific District of the Eldorado National Forest.

*\*Note the entirety of the attached 9/30/14 document was not included in #7.*

I also request that the entirety of this correspondence and the attachments be added to Item #29 and #32 of the 1/12/16 BOS Agenda.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

*Melody Lane*

Founder – **Compass2Truth**

Conservatives Serving God in Truth and Liberty

***"We, the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow men who pervert the Constitution." ~ Abraham Lincoln ~***

## Melody Lane

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**From:** Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2016 4:23 PM  
**To:** michael.ranalli@edcgov.us; 'Brenda Bailey'  
**Cc:** 'Paula Frantz'; Robyn Drivon; 'Sheriff DAgostini'; barry.smith@parks.ca.gov; 'Roger Trout'; 'Laura Lyons'; 'Pamela Knorr'; bosfive@edcgov.us; bosfour@edcgov.us; bosone@edcgov.us; bosthree@edcgov.us; bostwo@edcgov.us; ron.mikulaco@edcgov.us  
**Subject:** Request for a Come to Jesus meeting...  
**Attachments:** Responding to your request... (152 KB); 1-5-16 OF Oaths of Office CPRA.docx

Dear Supervisor Ranalli,

During the 1/5/16 BOS Open Forum you refused to respond to a repeated request to schedule a meeting to discuss concerns pertaining to EDSO, OES and the Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council. For your reference I have attached a copy of my presentation.

However during the break you apparently reconsidered your on-camera remarks when you approached me at the rear of the room and indicated your willingness to meet as befitting your duty and Constitutional Oath of Office.

I understand you are powerless to force the Sheriff to participate, but that is no excuse for you to avoid addressing constituent concerns about public safety within District #4. The Sheriff may choose to delegate an EDSO representative in his place.

Barry Smith has indicated to me his willingness to attend this meeting. However Brenda has not yet provided me an update about any of the other participants availability to meet since my initial contact with your office stemming from my July 5th CLNews posting concerning the yearly illegal fireworks and related safety concerns at the Coloma Resort.

The request for this "Come to Jesus" meeting is the same as it was in July to meet with Sheriff D'Agostini, Roger Trout, Acting MGDSP Superintendent Barry Smith, and an active member of the CL FSC (myself). The purpose is to avoid unnecessary litigation at EDC taxpayer expense. This definition may be helpful to keep the prepared agenda on track:

**COME TO JESUS MEETING:** Basically, a conversation where painful/unpleasant truths are told. The term refers to a serious meeting with an individual or group of people that involves an ultimatum, usually related to much-needed improvement and changes that must be made. It may even include a reprimand.

Other definitions for a "come to Jesus meeting" include confession time, coming clean, tell it like it is, or a time to sit down and reassess priorities.

By the way, Ron Mikulaco's arrogant response was very disrespectful leaving little doubt about the necessity for Total Recall, *"If you get Jesus to show up at a meeting I'd like to be there."*

In light of the 1/12/16 BOS agenda, the courtesy of your immediate response is appreciated. Thanks in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Regards,

*Melody Lane*  
*Founder - Compass2Truth*  
**Conservatives Serving God in Truth & Liberty**

~ By identifying the people's sovereign will not with its latest but its oldest expression, the Framers succeeded in identifying the people's authority with the Constitution, not with the statutory law made by their representatives. ~

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**From:** Melody Lane [mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 01, 2015 9:37 PM  
**To:** michael.ranalli@edcgov.us; Brenda Bailey  
**Cc:** Paula Frantz; Sheriff D'Agostini; barry.smith@parks.ca.gov; Roger Trout; Laura Lyons; Steve Willis; Pamela Knorr; bosfive@edcgov.us; bosfour@edcgov.us; bosone@edcgov.us; bosthree@edcgov.us; bostwo@edcgov.us  
**Subject:** FW: CL Fire Safe Meeting - Argonaut conversation

Supervisor Ranalli,

Your name was brought up by Tim Kulton during a conversation last week referred to below. Tim pulled up the attached 11/10/15 email on his cell phone and mentioned other correspondence specifically with you regarding these public safety concerns. Tim was so totally bizarre and unreasonable that I had to walk away from him.

It was apparent that Mr. Kulton has no intention of revealing who the C-L Fire Safe officers are, how/by whom they were elected, and your complicity in the situation. What the heck is going on???

To date I have not yet heard from you or Brenda Bailey as to the coordination of the meeting requested in July with Barry Smith, Sheriff D'Agostini, Roger Trout and a member of the C-L Fire Safe Council (Bob Day has dropped out of the picture.) What is the status of that meeting as per the attached 8/31/15 email?

BTW, these same concerns also were brought up by residents during the RCC meeting held 11/20 at the Garden Valley Fire Dept. where Sheriff D'Agostini was the guest speaker.

Your written response to both the above inquiries is expected by the end of this business week December 4th.

Serving the community,

*Melody Lane*  
*Founder - Compass2Truth*

~ By identifying the people's sovereign will not with its latest but its oldest expression, the Framers succeeded in identifying the people's authority with the Constitution, not with the statutory law made by their representatives. ~



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**From:** Melody Lane [<mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2015 4:27 PM  
**To:** Tim Kulton  
**Cc:** [deborahskruse@gmail.com](mailto:deborahskruse@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** RE: CL Fire Safe Meeting - Argonaut conversation

Tim, you do not know me. We've only had one face-to-face conversation at the Coloma Club about a year ago. It is troubling that I've still not received the courtesy of a reply to my inquiry below about the FSC officers, or how/by whom they were elected.

In light of our brief conversation Sunday afternoon in front of the Argonaut, you confirmed the reasons I--and several neighbors--are deeply concerned about the Coloma-Lotus FSC and the "people" who appear to be controlling it. ***They are not elected, transparent or accountable.***

Even more disturbing was your reticence to "reveal" public information. Your attitude appears to be based upon false rumors of unidentified "people" who told you not to talk to me, fear I'm going to "hassle" them, or object to the purpose of the FSC. That's a bunch of baloney.

Just so there are no misunderstandings: ***I am the person who is being harassed, libeled, slandered, hacked, cased, intimidated, intruded upon and routinely violated.*** Four other women have been run out of Coloma by the "people" you referred to, aka the River Mafia. I serve a holy God, therefore I have no fear of Mafia thugs...

Your contentious comments left no doubt about the identity of "people" you refused to name. They are the same individuals who are under EDSO investigation stemming from my July 5<sup>th</sup> CLNews posting about the Coloma Resort annual illegal fireworks and frequent traffic jams at the Mt. Murphy Bridge.

They are the same "people" who've formed a committee to slander and censor me from CLNews just like they did 10 years ago. ***They are LIARS.***

Bubba Kite confirmed their involvement just minutes prior to the September FSC meeting. That evening Mike Ranalli abruptly cut off dialog regarding the necessity of road turnouts every 400 feet because of the sensitivity of a complex issue that has been deliberately avoided for decades. Ranalli agreed to coordinate a meeting 4 months ago to address these concerns but it has again been swept under the bureaucratic rug, just like Briggs. Why do you think his was the first recall notice served?

BTW, that is further reason for me to decline your invitation to meet privately with you and Steve Willis. Private meetings are like dead end streets. Everyone knows I don't meet privately with anyone—BOS, Sheriff, County Counsel, Park staff--unless accompanied by at least one other witness. Ya'll simply can't be trusted to be transparent or accountable.

All 5 Mt. Murphy arson fires have started either directly on my property or within ¼ mile from my home. The 2007 Mt. Murphy arson site where ARC cut off my fire access was ignited by arsonist Ben Cunha. That fire claimed the life of my beloved golden retriever. Cunha was under \$10M bail just like the King Fire arsonist. The photos and letters I submitted to 12 government agencies generated correspondence and phone calls from the CA Fire Marshal, Governor Schwarzenegger, attorneys and legislators with whom I worked while employed at the Capitol. The root issues still remain unaddressed, shrouded in litigation, or bureaucratically avoided.

The real question that needs to be **publicly** addressed is: Why is EDC, the MGD and media avoiding the public safety and risk management issues associated with all these C-L fires?

Inquiring minds would like to know why all the secrecy about the CL FSC officers?

*Melody Lane*

**Founder, Compass2Truth  
Conservatives Serving God in Truth & Liberty**

***"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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**From:** Melody Lane [<mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2015 5:28 PM

**To:** 'deborahskruse@gmail.com'; Tim Kulton

**Subject:** RE: [CLNews] CL Fire Safe Meeting, Gold Trail Grange, Wednesday 11/18/2015 - 7pm

I was unable to make the FS meeting Wednesday. Who are the officers and how/by whom were they elected?

A brief update or synopsis of the meeting would be much appreciated.

*Melody Lane*

**Founder, Compass2Truth  
Conservatives Serving God in Truth & Liberty**

***"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 ~***

**From:** [cnews@googlegroups.com](mailto:cnews@googlegroups.com) [<mailto:cnews@googlegroups.com>] **On Behalf Of** Deborah & Scott Kruse

**Sent:** Sunday, November 15, 2015 6:43 PM

**To:** Coloma-Lotus News

**Subject:** [CLNews] CL Fire Safe Meeting, Gold Trail Grange, Wednesday 11/18/2015 - 7pm

At the Wednesday 11/18/2015, 7- 8:30pm Meeting - BIG News

- 1) CL Fire Safe Council now formed - meet the Officers
- 2) Countywide Community Wildfire Prevention Plan Status Update
- 3) El Nino - Status Update and Flood Preparedness Practical Tips
- 4) Are Burn Permits OK'd Yet?
- 5) Lessons Learned from the Butte and King Fires
- 6) How to apply for Free Chipper Service- <http://www.edcfiresafe.org/programs-grants-2/chipper-program/>  
When you apply, indicate your neighborhood area in Coloma-Lotus so that work might be coordinated by neighborhood.
- 7) Upcoming CL Fire Safe Council Plans

See you at the Gold Trail Grange

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For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

It is said there are two sides to every story, and the truth is somewhere in between.

My own experience working in the executive offices of our state Capitol provided me valuable insight to how the government really operates. I'll begin by explaining my position had been created under the specific direction of Mayor Fargo and the City Manager during a hiring freeze after the 2007 economic downturn. But of course rules are meant to be broken. I'm grateful for the opportunities it afforded and especially the close friendships that were forged. There are policies and procedures that everyone must follow but the *unwritten rule* is you'll do as you are told and keep your lips sealed. That is known as 'job security.'

However it didn't take long to ascertain that the government determines "*what is good for the people to know and what is not good for the people to know.*" What actually transpires behind the governmental Iron Curtain really has little chance of making it into the mainstream media.

Now I'd like to segue into another story that needs to be told. It's a story about one of the 5 Mt. Murphy arson fires, the similarities to the King Fire, and how the government and the media manipulate public perceptions.

The July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 Mt. Murphy Fire was ignited by 3<sup>rd</sup> generation firefighter Ben Cunha at the base of my property at Bayne Road near the site of a huge sign posted by American River Conservancy without my knowledge or consent. The Conservancy had surreptitiously trespassed on my property, erected a fence that re-determined my boundaries and cut off my **fire access** at Bayne Road. A few days later my beloved golden retriever died from a respiratory infection caused by the smoke from that fire.

My comments are not meant to disparage the Cunha family, but you will be hard pressed to find anything on the internet in regard to arsonist Ben Cunha or his \$10M bail because the facts were covered up to protect the arsonist and his respected family of firefighters. Of course I am grateful for those who've put their lives on the line to protect us but that's not the point I wish to make.

Similarly the King Fire arsonist Wayne Hartman is under a \$10M bail but the details of the first 24 hours of the fire have been surreptitiously obscured on the internet. State and Federal laws protect most government employees so it is unlikely that any fire fighters will receive any serious disciplinary actions, but the case against the accused arsonist might be placed in risk. Inquiring minds would like to know what really happened during the first 24 hours of the King Fire?

After I addressed a detailed letter accompanied by large photos of the Mt. Murphy 2007 fire to 12 government agencies and public officials I received a phone call at work from CA Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva. I also received two personal phone calls from the late Senator Cox, correspondence from former Congressman Dolittle, and a letter

from Governor Schwarzenegger concerning the fire that consumed close to 100 acres of the newly acquired Mt. Murphy land that doubled the size of the Marshall Gold Discovery Historic State Park.

Clearly this property has been a historical "hot spot" for arson and other crimes. Yet somehow I've been unjustly labeled the "troublemaker" for sounding the alarm to the Sheriff and other government officials. They obviously recognized the liability making haste to divert the attention and hush the legitimate concerns under a cloak of secrecy.

I posted these pictures in my office immediately after the fire. About a week later the Director of Governmental Affairs ushered me into her office for a conference. I wasn't told to remove the pictures, but it was made clear to me that they were an embarrassment to my employer. No wonder the meeting with former CA State Parks Director Ruth Coleman was moved into the Mayor's conference room so she wouldn't see the photos of the Marshall Gold Discovery Park gone up in flames posted in my office. As you'll recall Ms. Coleman later resigned in disgrace after the CA State Parks scandal involving misappropriations of millions of taxpayer's dollars.

A few days later I was ordered to attend a private offsite meeting. Apparently Fire Marshall Ruben Grijalva and other government agencies had alerted my employer about my letter and photos describing what really happened to this acreage that is supposed to preserve the historic backdrop to Sutter's Mill and the site of the Marshall Gold Discovery that changed the face of our nation. The purpose of the meeting was to make it clear that I represented a threat to the City of Sacramento because of my access to very sensitive information that the government would prefer the public not know. In no mistaken terms it was made clear my livelihood was in jeopardy. Five months later I was laid off.

The matter of another disastrous wildfire happening in the Coloma Valley has been a matter of great concern particularly to residents on the north side of the Mt. Murphy Bridge in Coloma. Naturally constituents wonder why our government officials have been reticent to proactively address the topic of public safety in Coloma for so many years. What took place at the 3 Mt. Murphy Stakeholders meetings is not what is publicly posted on the government website. Either this Board has been drinking the Kool Aide or they are complicit in obscuring the truth.

Is justice truly blind? Only time will tell.

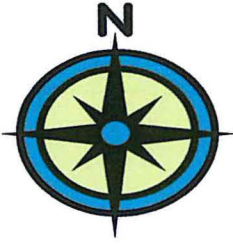
When it comes to truth and transparency I hope my will give you cause to ponder the authenticity of your oaths of office and whether the ends justify the means. The questions that remain unanswered are:

- 1) Why has there been no response to the Campfire Moratorium submitted by Bob Day in July?

- 2) What was the reason the CAO failed to provide an appropriate response to the CPRA submitted in July concerning the costs associated with the Camp Lotus fire?
- 3) Why has County staff been reticent to appropriately address the lack of a community evacuation plan since 1989 as it pertains to residents living on the north side of the Mt. Murphy Bridge in Coloma?
- 4) Exactly from whom may we expect answers to these issues involving public safety?

Mr./Madam Clerk: Please enter these items into the public record:

1. Mt. Murphy Fire & Cunha arson articles
2. Rob Vernon 7/22/07 email to the media



# Compass2Truth

*Citizens Serving God in Truth and Liberty*

P.O. Box 598  
Coloma, CA 95613  
[melody.lane@reagan.com](mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com)

December 2, 2015

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
EDC Clerk to the Board

## CA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST

Pursuant to my rights under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.), I ask to obtain the following:

- Documentation substantiating the application of the **Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council**, the date it was formed, the names of each of the officers and the method/policies by which they were selected.
- Copies of all contracts/agreements with the Coloma Fire Safe Council, the County of El Dorado, and all tree trimming/chipping agencies.
- Copies of all **\*correspondence** between Supervisor Ranalli, Tim Kulton, Deborah Kruse, and all officers and active participants pertaining to the implementation of the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council.

(\* ) Such writings and communications to include any handwriting, typing, printing, photocopying, transmitting by facsimile or electronic mail, any form of communication or representation including letters, words, pictures, sounds or symbols, or combination thereof, and any record thereby created, regardless of the manner in which the record has been stored.

If you determine that some but not all of the information is exempt from disclosure and that you intend to withhold it, I ask that you provide a signed notification citing the legal authorities on whom you rely.

To avoid unnecessary costs of duplication, electronic copies are acceptable and may be emailed to [melody.lane@reagan.com](mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com). It is requested that your determination be made within **10 days** as stipulated within the California Public Records Act, **Government Code 6253(c)**.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

Melody Lane  
**Founder – Compass2Truth**

*Due 12/16/15*

# Supes start new year with duty changes

**Chris Daley**  
Staff writer

El Dorado County supervisors unanimously elected District 1's Ron "Mik" Mikulaco to handle the gavel for 2016. In its first regular meeting of the new year Tuesday, Jan. 5, the board also approved District 2's Shiva Frentzen to be vice-chair and District 4's Michael Ranalli as second vice-chair.

Traditionally, the longest-serving supervisors take over the chair and vice chairmanship of the board. District 3 Supervisor Brian Veerkamp presided throughout 2015. Mikulaco was elected at the same time as Veerkamp in 2012 and served as vice chair last year. Frentzen was elected to fill the vacant



RON MIKULACO

seat left by ousted District 2 supervisor Ray Nutting and took her seat on the dais in October 2014. If history holds, she will be in line for the chair's job next year.

To bursts of applause, Mikulaco's first words on Veerkamp's tenure as chairman praised his "quiet and cool" leadership. In response, Veerkamp joked, "Now I can speak, I've been holding back for a year."



SHIVA FRENTZEN

He went on to thank his colleagues for their hard work and support throughout the past year.

### In other board news

Several residents voiced opposition to a recommendation by county counsel to approve an agreement between the county and the law firm of Abbott & Kinderman. Drawing from the county's Impact Mitigation Fee

fund, \$150,000 was approved for the outside legal counsel, which is expected to deal with the complaint of Thomas and Helen Austin of El Dorado Hills.

Filed early last month, the suit carried by the Kuzyk law firm of Lancaster seeks refunds of mitigation fees to several thousand El Dorado Hills homeowners charged over a number of years for the cost of various maintenance and improvement projects intended to address the impact of new residential development in the area.

The broader issue in question is residents' concerns that the county continues to hire outside attorneys and consultants to handle cases and problems they say should

■ See **CHANGES**, page A2

## Changes *Continued from A1*

be done by staff already on the payroll.

Melody Lane of Coloma, demanded to know "How much is being spent on attorney fees?"

Kirk Smith of Placerville challenged supervisors, "You campaigned to be fiscally conservative, but you spend too much. Much too much is being spent on outside counsel."

Bolstered by Interim County Counsel Mike Ciccozzi's interpretation of the relevant laws related to using Mitigation Fee funds for legal costs, supervisors voted unanimously to approve the recommendation and expenditure.

Board members got into a tug-o-war over who should represent the county on the Rural County Representatives of California board. During the general discussion, Mikulaco listed RCRC as one of the "Big 7" committees and associations that supervisors participate in. Ranalli has served on the RCRC board for the past year and suggested that, given the depth of his involvement, he should continue to be the county's representative.

He particularly noted, "We're talking about legislative issues that will extend for years."

Frentzen, however, argued that her District 2 is similar in rural nature to Ranalli's District 4 and that she should alternate year by year with Ranalli at RCRC. With two experienced and knowledgeable representatives alternating at RCRC, Frentzen observed, "We'll have twice as much power."

Ranalli put up a strong argument that continuity of RCRC membership would better serve El Dorado County. Veerkamp, Mikulaco and District 5's Sue Novasel agreed, and Ranalli was reappointed to the post. Frentzen opposed the vote.

Chief Administrative Officer Larry Combs advised that alternating representatives could limit the county's ability to rise to positions of leadership. Citing the importance of developing a broad range of relationships more likely with continuity of membership, he indicated the "value of getting into chair positions ... which will never happen if you change every year."

RCRC represents and advocates for 34 rural California counties. According to its website, RCRC's core mission "is to improve the ability of small, rural California county government to provide services by reducing the burden of state and federal mandates, and promoting a greater understanding among policy makers about the unique challenges that face California's small population counties."

*Item #9 on Bas 1/5/16 agenda  
CRA submitted but not  
properly addressed by Joe Hain  
Dec 1/31/15*



# Board of Supervisors back in business tomorrow

**Chris Daley**  
Staff writer

After a three-week holiday hiatus, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors returns to its regular Tuesday schedule tomorrow, Jan. 5, for its first official meeting of 2016. Traditionally, the board begins its new year with elections for board chairperson, vice chair and second vice chair.

District 3 Supervisor Brian Veerkamp held the gavel throughout 2015 and, if another tradition holds, District 1's Ron Mikulaco, as the current board's next longest-sitting board member, will be in line for the chair this year. In addition to voting on and assigning board positions, supervisors also have a long slate of "non-district specific appointments to various boards, commissions or committees for the terms

stated," as recommended by Board Clerk Jim Mitrusin. Citizen members serve on a variety of these non-district entities, which includes a broad range of issues the county oversees, from the Agriculture Commission and Cemetery Advisory to Child Abuse Prevention Council and a Fire Advisory Board. The list extends to the Mental Health Commission, In-Home Supportive Services

Advisory, Law Library Trustees, Placerville Airport Advisory, Sierra Economic Development Corporation and the Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District. Appointments range from two years to four years. The board clerk's recommendations are on the consent agenda; they will be voted on as a block unless supervisors, staff or members of the public request

discussion of a particular item or a particular appointment. Following approval of the consent agenda, supervisors will hear several specific departmental issues.

Next supervisors will shuffle their official participation in 42 external boards, commissions, joint partnership authorities and the like. The county's Transit Authority, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, the El Dorado Water Agency, Rural County Representatives of California, Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor JPA, and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency are among the most significant posts to be filled.

Supervisors with a special interest in a particular subject or issue may request re-election or reappointment to that commission or JPA. For example, Supervisor Mikulaco requested a seat on the Capital Southeast Connector JPA after he was elected because that project mainly affects District 1 directly. Likewise, District 5 Supervisor Sue Nowasl serves as the primary board member on the TRPA.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors meets in board chambers at 330 Fair Lane, Bldg A in Placerville. Public sessions generally begin at 9 a.m. Upcoming agendas may be accessed on the county's website under Board of Supervisors - Agendas.

## Item of special note

Outgoing County Counsel Robyn Drivon has recommended the board approve a \$150,000 attorneys contract to defend the county's collection of fees under the Mitigation Fee Act.

In December El Dorado Hills couple Thomas and Helen Austin sued the county, seeking refunds of building permit fees levied and collected by the county. The suit alleges that the county continues to collect and accumulate fees even though it is in violation of the Mitigation Fee Act. The suit seeks refunds of approximately \$20 million from the county, \$5 million from El Dorado Hills Community Services District and \$3 million from the El Dorado Hills Fire Department.

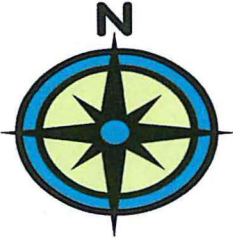
Drivon's recommendation states that the legal fees paid to the attorneys, Abbott & Kindermann of Sacramento, will be funded out of the permit fee funds named in the lawsuit — the county's Traffic Impact Mitigation fees, El Dorado Hills Public Safety Facility fee, the El Dorado Hills Fire fee and the El Dorado Hills CSD Park fee.

In a phone interview on Friday, El Dorado County Auditor-Controller Joe Ham, who said he's repeatedly warned county supervisors in writing that the county was violating the Mitigation Fee Act, voiced concerns about Drivon's recommendation.

"Why should the El Dorado Hills Fire Department pay any of these attorney's fees? EDH Fire completed its nexus studies on a timely basis and submitted it to the CAO," he said. "Due to negligence in the CAO's Office the study sat on a shelf for 15 months, causing the violation of state law."

"I agree with Robyn that the county needs outside legal representation because this is a very important case," Ham continued. "But we shouldn't waste money trying to defend and justify the EDH Public Safety Facility Fee. That fee is clearly unlawful and the county has no plans to build a public safety facility in El Dorado Hills."

Item #9 BOS Agenda



# Compass2Truth

*Citizens Serving God in Truth and Liberty*

P.O. Box 598  
Coloma, CA 95613  
[melody.lane@reagan.com](mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com)

December 15, 2015

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
EDC Clerk to the Board

## CA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST

Pursuant to my rights under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.), I ask to obtain the following:

- Documentation from the County Auditor identifying each of the outside law firms contracted by El Dorado County to supplement County Counsel's team of 14 lawyers; and
- The total annual dollar amount budgeted and/or allocated to each of those outside law firms, and
- The percentage of the county budget and/or General Funds annually allocated solely to Law and Justice.

If you determine that some but not all of the information is exempt from disclosure and that you intend to withhold it, I ask that you provide a signed notification citing the legal authorities on whom you rely.

To avoid unnecessary costs of duplication, electronic copies are acceptable and may be emailed to [melody.lane@reagan.com](mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com). It is requested that your determination be made within **10 days** as stipulated within the California Public Records Act, **Government Code 6253(c)**.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation and timely reply.

Melody Lane  
Founder – Compass2Truth

1/5/16 BOS Agenda Item #9  
1/12/16 BOS Agenda Items #1 (minutes) #36 Austin v. EDC

Due 12/31/15 > See Horn 1/4/16 LATE  
partial reply

## Melody Lane

---

**From:** Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 04, 2016 8:25 PM  
**To:** 'Joe Harn'; Robyn Drivon  
**Cc:** 'Paula Frantz'; michael.ciccozzi@edcgov.us; Vern R Pierson  
**Subject:** RE: Legal  
**Attachments:** 12-24-15 CL FSC Response to Drivon.doc

Thanks for your email, albeit tardy response to the CPRA.

For clarification the intent of the CPRA was to garner the YTD total of both legal consultants AND legal services.

County Counsel is supposed to be on top of this as per our 11/12/14 meeting with Robyn Drivon and Paula Franz. Per Robyn, *"Molly is going to be a Nazi about the spreadsheet in term of timing (responsive to CPRAs.) But Paula and whoever it is as staff can help you in that translation."*

Don't forget to include in your comprehensive reply the percentage of the county budget/General Fund annually allocated to Law & Justice. Vern Pierson should be able to help provide an answer to that question.

As a reminder Robyn's written response to the attached 12/24/15 inquiry is expected prior to departure from EDC employment.

Regards,

*Melody Lane*  
**Founder – Compass2Truth**

*When law and morality contradict each other the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his sense of morality or losing his respect for the law. ~ Frederick Bastiat ~*

**From:** Joe Harn [<mailto:joe.harn@edcgov.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 04, 2016 5:08 PM  
**To:** Melody Lane  
**Cc:** Paula Frantz  
**Subject:** Fwd: Legal

Melody,

I just became cognizant of your PRA dated 12-15-15. Here is a partial response.

This is a list of attorneys that the County paid during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The list may be incomplete. Some of the attorneys provide consulting services rather than legal services.

A number of the law firms have had a relationship with the County for years.

Joe Harn  
Auditor-Controller  
El Dorado County

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Keely Giovannoni** <[keely.giovannoni@edcgov.us](mailto:keely.giovannoni@edcgov.us)>

Date: Mon, Aug 31, 2015 at 4:23 PM

Subject: Re: Legal

To: Joe Harn <[joe.harn@edcgov.us](mailto:joe.harn@edcgov.us)>

DEPT	VENDOR	AMOUNT PAID 14/15
02	FOSTER EMPLOYMENT LAW	147.50
02	PRENTICE LONG & EPPERSON	15,627.03
03	CALFEE & KONWINSKI	3,127.50
04	WRIGHT LAW OFFICE	6,127.80
07	ANDREW CAULFIELD	20,083.94
07	BRADY & VINDING	24,188.07
07	CHARLD JONES A PRO CORP	137.50
07	HANSON BRIDGETT	3,940.89
08	ANWYL, SCOFFIELD & STEPP	32,481.78
08	BRADLEY S THOMAS	3,887.80
08	ANDREW CAULFIELD	135,587.80
08	STEPHAN MASON	35,300.75
08	FOSTER EMPLOYMENT LAW	105,195.56
08	DOWNEY BRAND	4,050.00
08	VALENTINA REINER	92,659.50
08	PORTER SCOTT	100,733.94
08	JEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	149,268.70
08	JEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	8,079.50
08	MEYERS NAVE RIBACK SILVER	46,639.90
08	MURCH BASSOFF & ASSOC	10,350.00
08	SHAW VALENZA	29,645.00
08	NNE SLOAN HOLZMAN & SAKAI	16,133.62
08	ANGELO, KILDAY, & KILDUFF	9,536.81
30	MEYERS NAVE RIBACK SILVER	36,894.16
34	ABBOTT & KINDERMAN	43,013.96
34	RANDALL MORRISON	14,835.83
34	STEPHAN VALENTINE	600.00
40	WRIGHT LAW OFFICE	10,653.30
42	W OFFICE OF THOMAS BRUEN	5,743.56
42	THE GALLAGHER LAW GROUP	4,745.00
43	LEGALESE ATTY SVCS	2,355.00
53	LEGALESE ATTY SVCS	2,275.00
53	JEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	6,442.70
72	DOWNEY BRAND	3,003.50
79	AMERICAN EAGLE ATTY SVCS	11,451.00
		<u>994,943.90</u>
CONFLICT PANE	VARIOUS	223,221.15

Keely Giovannoni  
Auditor-Controllers Office  
El Dorado County  
(530) 621-5421  
(530) 295-2535 FAX

On Mon, Aug 31, 2015 at 4:21 PM, Keely Giovannoni <[keely.giovannoni@edcgov.us](mailto:keely.giovannoni@edcgov.us)> wrote:

Keely Giovannoni  
Auditor-Controllers Office  
El Dorado County  
(530) 621-5421  
(530) 295-2535 FAX



# Compass2Truth

*Citizens Serving God in Truth and Liberty*

P.O. Box 598  
Coloma, CA 95613

December 24, 2015

County Counsel Robyn Truitt Drivon  
County Government Center  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

**RE: CA Public Record Act Requests – Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council**

Dear Ms. Drivon,

Thank you for your letter dated December 17, 2015. However you were in error about a duplicate submittal of the December 2, 2015 CPRA regarding the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council. Note that particular CPRA was submitted to the Clerk of the Board on December 15, 2015 as an attachment referred to in item #4 of my Open Forum presentation. (See Exhibit A)

A separate CPRA dated 12/15/15 regarding outside legal contracts was submitted into the public record as document #5. A response from Counsel is due by December 31, 2015.

**Compass2Truth** specifically requested the *names of the CL FSC officers and how/by whom they were elected*. Despite phone calls, emails and public inquiries made on multiple occasions Supervisor Ranalli, staff and County Counsel have refused to respond to requests for public information regarding the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council (CL FSC). We allege a pattern of violations of **Government Code § 6200-6203**:

6200. Every officer having the custody of any record, map, or book, or of any paper or proceeding of any court, filed or deposited in any public office, or placed in his or her hands for any purpose, is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for two, three, or four years if, as to the whole or any part of the record, map, book, paper, or proceeding, the officer willfully does or permits any other person to do any of the following:

- (a) Steal, remove, or secrete.
- (b) Destroy, mutilate, or deface.
- (c) Alter or falsify.


6201. Every person not an officer referred to in Section 6200, who is guilty of any of the acts specified in that section, is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

6203. (a) Every officer authorized by law to make or give any

certificate or other writing is guilty of a misdemeanor if he or she makes and delivers as true any certificate or writing containing statements which he or she knows to be false.

(b) Notwithstanding any other limitation of time described in Section 802 of the Penal Code, or any other provision of law, prosecution for a violation of this offense shall be commenced within four years after discovery of the commission of the offense, or within four years after the completion of the offense, whichever is later.

(c) The penalty provided by this section is not an exclusive remedy, and does not affect any other relief or remedy provided by law.


Tim Kulton also refused to reveal this public information to an "active member" of the FSC as evidenced by his email correspondence. It is significant that Mr. Kulton, Supervisor Ranalli, as well as CA State Parks Ranger & RMAC representative Bill Deitchman have all been advised not to speak with me which constitutes a violation of my Civil Rights. (See Exhibit B) 

It is evident Mr. Kulton's 12/19/15 response was drafted by County Counsel on behalf of "a private non-profit, public benefit corporation formed as a tax exempt entity". The CL FSC is a non-government organization (NGO) represented by EDC staff at taxpayer's expense which is in violation of **Government Code Title 18 §241 and §242**.

Additionally please note the following American BAR Association Code of Ethics violations:

***Maintaining The Integrity Of The Profession***  
**Rule 8.4 Misconduct**

It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

- (a) violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another;
- (b) commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects;
-  (c) **engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation;**
- (d) engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;
- (e) state or imply an ability to influence improperly a government agency or official or to achieve results by means that violate the Rules of Professional Conduct or **other law**; or
- (f) knowingly assist a judge or judicial officer in conduct that is a violation of applicable rules of judicial conduct or **other law**.

We are doubtful that Counsel submitted "all correspondence between Supervisor Ranalli, Tim Kulton, Deborah Kruse, and all officers and active participants" as requested in the 12/2/15 CPRA. Accordingly I wish to bring to your recollection the purpose of our 11/12/14 meeting. Note these particular transcript excerpts:

**CONCERNING RESOLUTION #113-95 VERSUS AB1234, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM COUNSEL AS PER THE FOLLOWING:**

**Melody:** This is The Guide to the Public Records Act.

**Lawyer-Witness#1:** OK. I think you sent me that.

**Melody:** Yes I did. But it says right on here "Not by local." And the Sheriff has been reminded of that, and I think you were present at a TEA Party Patriots meeting in El Dorado Hills when I brought up this whole thing about the Sheriff... you know...wanting to charge \$10. It's called Unjust Enrichment. And he says that's how he... you know...he publicly said this...that's how he raises funds for his department. It's against the law. Bad thing to say. And when he was challenged I said, "Oh, so you have to pay for justice?" He closed the meeting out and he stormed out of the room. And that's a pretty serious charge there.

**Robyn:** Well, let's just put a star by that one and I'll...I'll take a look at that.

###

**Melody:** And that's part of something I want to cover on here too. And if you look under number 3, Obstacles, number 113-95 versus AB1234. Uh, this has to do with the Sheriff's Department. The Resolution 113-95...in our meetings which Lori has been at practically all of those that we've been having with Norma Santiago...this Resolution which is supposed to be on the El Dorado County government website is not on there. And uh...that's because AB1234 was passed in 2005 which rendered 113-95 obsolete. That had to do with the different fees you can charge, and this is where you get into the ethics training. The whole thing about AB1234 you can't charge any more than the direct costs of duplication...

**Robyn:** Uh Melody...Melody...I ah have to just interrupt a...I disagree. And the county as a whole disagrees. I looked...I looked into that for you when you sent the letter about the Sheriff's resolution. The Sheriff's resolution has never been rescinded. This is still in effect. When I...when I asked for it from the Clerk's Office they got it right away. Um, but the Public Records Act still says that you can charge either the direct costs of duplication or a statutory fee. And...

**Melody:** Not according to what I've got.

**Robyn:** Well...the...the...the Public Records Act in the government code says that you...you can...you...you...it is...(long pause)....

**Paula:** And that might just to put a star because...

**Melody:** This is an issue. And just so you know in one of our meetings I think it was in um...it was either in Apr...May or June...when we met with Norma...and Norma confirmed that 113-95 is not on the government website. County Counsel Ed Knapp had gone over this whole deal. I had conversations with Ed Knapp and he agreed. And Norma agreed and said in their conversations with Counsel that 113-95 was rescinded. I was correct...and I've got the audio.

**Paula:** Could you put a star on that one?

**Melody:** Yeah, put a star on that one because that's one we're going to need to follow...

**Lawyer-Witness#1:** 113-95 would that be a county resolution...or is that...that's a county resolution, correct?

**Paula:** It's a county resolution.

**Melody:** It's a county resolution.

**Lawyer-Witness#1:** 1234 would be superior to that.



**Robyn:** Yeah...if...if...if it...if it...

**Lawyer-Witness#1:** State law is superior to county law if there's a conflict.

###

**CONCERNING APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO CPRAS WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR  
REPLY REGARDING INDEXING, IT-BACKUP AND RECORD RETRIEVAL:**

**Paula:** Well...let me just say...what I started to say was um, I haven't been involved as you know with this up until now but I do um...help all of my departments...but I do represent with all the various Public Record Act requests that they get and that's where...that was the basis for what I said was a lot of it is...that...I used to say all of the time that when I first got here that the Keystone Kops don't conspire...They're too stupid to. And...and...(laughter). Our record system is stupid. Let me just start by that. We don't have a well-set forth...um...By the way...are you...are you taping me?

**Melody:** I am.

###

**Lawyer-Witness#1:** Well you could say the record system is...difficult.

**Paula:** OK. Exactly. The record system is antiquated and not necessarily very um...thoroughly integrated because as I said they've been in different... um...different places and there are just various buildings. So it is not as easy as you might think when you said to me...just to the county...there's no such thing as just a county centralized record system. CDA which was...several other departments... kept their own records...their um...(long pause)...their own...er...

**Lawyer-Witness#1:** They're all over the place...

**Paula:** ...and they're kept separately.

###

**Melody:** Now is the County email system and everything else...all of their electronic records backed up every night?

**Paula:** You know I would not be the right person to ask about all of that. You know I'm not the IT person and people will tell you I'm not that IT savvy. I don't even have a cell phone. I never tape record anybody. Um, I don't...I...I...I tend to be still where I pick my (?)...but my understanding is yes it is backed up um, every night but I...I couldn't guarantee that because I don't work in IT and I've never been down there to see how they do it.

**Melody:** But my understanding is, especially when you are dealing with government entities, everything has to be backed up. I mean look at...

**Lawyer-Witness#1:** Unless you're the IRS.

**Melody:** Yeah. I was going to say...yeah. Look at the IRS. I was going to say that whole missing records were found.

###

**Melody:** This is one CPRA that I received in the mail where I asked for correspondence and I got maps.

**Paula:** And my understanding was that the response to that...was...was that...

**Melody:** But I still haven't got correspondence. (laughter)

**Paula:** But that's a different issue. Because...because...let's just talk about a different issue. The only one I've done which was October 20<sup>th</sup>.

###

**REGARDING THE INDIVIDUAL/GOVERNMENT ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOW UP, TRACKING AND TIMELY RESPONSES TO CPRAS:**

**Melody:** OK. Is...is there going to be a point person or personnel now that Ross is gone that's going to be coordinating logging and tracking?

**Paula:** Yes. Our...our...um...(long pause)...our business manager...our...I don't know exactly what her title is...um but she has agreed that she will take on the...the duty...the...our administrative duties...

**Lawyer-Witness#1:** Our...our meaning the County Counsel.

**Melody:** Yeah. How's that going to work?

**Paula:** She...she will be...um...you know...taking...taking the documents and scanning...um...putting them in the...um...putting them...you know...they came in and they went out and...and who I direct them out to...and when...when...

###

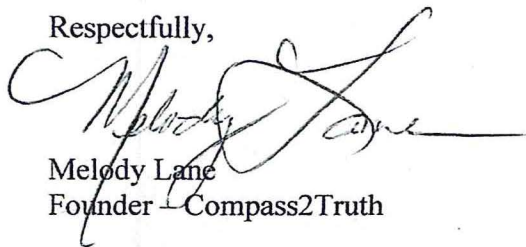
**Robyn:** Can I just...and I think that's kind of a...a...an example...of...what were' trying to do...with this meeting...is a process and with any luck we've got fine-tuned is...you know the spirit of the Public Records Act is...to help...when you ask for some...thing...that may or may not exist but it also may not be the best source of...

**Paula:** ...the information...

**Robyn:** ...or most utilitarian. And so if we can just have...you know...Molly is going to be a Nazi about the spreadsheet in term of timing. But Paula and whoever it is as staff can help you in that translation. I think that's what...

The courtesy of your response to these unresolved CPRA issues is expected prior to your departure from EDC employment in January.

Respectfully,



Melody Lane  
Founder - Compass2Truth

CC: Sr. Deputy Counsel Paula Franz  
Board of Supervisors District 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5  
HR Director Pamela Knorr  
CSP Counsel Rory Allen

Attachments:

Exhibit A - 12/15/15 Open Forum transcript  
Exhibit B - 12/19/15 Kim Kulton email

In 2013 I hosted a private all-day symposium at my home featuring two nationally-known experts on the topic of Constitutional law. One of the speakers wanted to bring Brian Veerkamp and Sheriff D'Agostini with him which would have been disastrous since my guests wouldn't have felt comfortable candidly expressing themselves in their presence.

Eighteen guests were invited, many of whom have been in the news, with the expectation that perhaps half of them would attend. I was pleasantly surprised when 17 people showed up, some of them early. After opening in prayer, the speaker asked my guests to introduce themselves and their reason for attending. *Each one without exception* replied, "**Corrupt government!**" One guest has already spent over \$7M on legal fees litigating a lawsuit that could have been avoided had the county just done the "right thing" in the first place.

The term doing things "by the book" is derived from a reference to biblical law which is the foundation of Constitutional law framed by the founders of our nation.

Sunshine laws such as FOIA, CPRA, and the Brown Act were instituted to ensure public transparency and accountability to the citizens whom elected officials profess to serve. AB1234 is the basis of mandatory ethics training for public officials described in this manual (Public Service Ethics). Even the Sheriff and County Counsel are required to sign an Oath of Office to support the US & CA Constitutions.

However just because something *may* be lawful doesn't mean it is *ethical*. Employees regularly abuse their fiduciary which presents major headaches for Risk Management. Ultimately lawsuits are filed at taxpayer's expense and the attorney's lucrative profit. The root of EDC's problem with Shadow Government is seated to the left of me > CAO and County Counsel. For example:

- 1) Last week's loaded BOS agenda was surreptitiously held in Somerset instead of this room. Had I not sent out a notice it is likely nobody would have shown up. The video and minutes of that meeting are not yet available as required by law.
- 2) The United Domestic Workers used to line up to the back of the room every Tuesday during Open Forum until Health & Human Services Director Don Ashton told them not to show up at any more BOS meetings. When asked to put that in writing he refused to do so for obvious reasons.
- 3) During the November 20<sup>th</sup> Taxpayers Assn. Chairman Veerkamp claimed the BOS meetings need to be "streamlined." Since when does expediency justify Brown Act violations, refusal to pull items from Consent, and censoring citizens?

**EXHIBIT A**

- 4) Minutes and reports to the BOS are deliberately falsified by staff; specifically RMAC, Development Services, and Parks & Rec.
- 5) No oaths of office on file with HR for Roger Trout, Vickie Sanders and Noah Rucker...and who knows how many other employees?
- \* 6) Mike Ranalli stonewalled the coordination of a Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council meeting request made 5 months ago and refused to respond publicly to matters within his district. He still hasn't revealed the officers or how they were selected.
- \* 7) A Conspiracy to commit fraud, harassment and libel relevant to the 9/14/15 RMAC meeting witnessed by Supervisor Ranalli ended up in the black hole of government bureaucracy headquartered in this building and guarded by County Counsel.

We met at the request of County Counsel last year regarding failure to respond timely and appropriately to CPRAs. The agenda for that audio recorded meeting is being submitted with supporting documentation into the public record. Note Counsel has yet to respond to those issues.

What's really going on here? Where's our representation, Mr. Ranalli? Case in point is this recent email excerpt from Paula Franz in response to a CPRA:

"Mr. Trout had also responded promptly to let me know that he does not have a copy of an oath of office; however, due to absences in the HR department, I never heard back from them about Mr. Trout's oath of office. While waiting for a response from them, this request inadvertently fell through the cracks on my desk. I apologize both to you and to Mssrs. Ranalli and Trout."

The apology of County Counsel is no excuse for incompetence or ignorance of the law. Accordingly another CPRA pertaining to outside law firms contracted by EDC to supplement Counsel's team of 14 lawyers is hereby submitted.

Madam Clerk: Please enter these documents into the public record and note you have 10 days to respond to the CPRA:

1. This transcript
2. 11/10/15 @ 8:54 AM CPRA Ranalli Trout oaths of office Paula Franz email
3. 11/12/14 Counsel Agenda re: CPRAs & Brown Act Violations
4. 11/12/15 @ 3:41 CL FSC CPRA correspondence w/Paula Franz
5. CPRA – Outside Legal Contracts

## Melody Lane

---

**From:** Tim Kulton <tkulton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2015 2:22 PM  
**To:** Fire- Melody Lane  
**Cc:** Deborah S Kruse  
**Subject:** Responding to your request...  
**Attachments:** County Council Response CPRA dated 12-02-15 Melody Lane.pdf

Date: Dec. 19, 2015

Dear Ms. Lane:

We are writing in response to your several recent contacts both in person and through email and thank you for your interest in the Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council.

The Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council (CLFSC) is a newly formed associate of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDCFSC). The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council is a private non-profit, public benefit corporation formed as a tax exempt entity. The word "County" in the title refers to a geographic area and does not imply that the EDCFSC is a part of El Dorado County Government.

As the EDCFSC is a private corporation it is not subject to the Brown Act and is not subject to public records laws or the freedom of information act. Even though the council is not required by law to comply with these regulations, the council and its leadership strive to maintain transparency and to the extent possible follow the intent of these laws. The meetings and agendas are published in advance and meeting notes or minutes are posted for public access. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings and there is a public comment period at each meeting where members of the public community can make their views known to all.

It seemed to me that your questions in front of the Argonaut would be more appropriate at one of our public meetings, or our web site where everyone could hear/see the questions as well as the answers. In fact, as open and transparent public meetings is one of your stated objectives, we agree and invite you to attend and participate.

Our Council was formed from verbal requests at our meetings this year and in the March 2015 Agenda. Item 7 of the meeting held on Tue. March 31st was:

1. How to get Involved/Areas of Need:
  - Survey – What is important to you?

**EXHIBIT B**

- Secretary, Treasurer, Chief of Communications, Field Event Coordinator, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Just for the record, the volunteer board officers were elected at our public meeting in October by a majority of those present. The Officers are: Deborah Kruse – Chairperson & Secretary, Tim Kulton – Co-Chairperson and Treasurer and Bill Deitchman – Project Manager. All of the board members are volunteers and are sacrificing their time to assist the community. The council’s sole objective is to help our residents and community to become more fire safe. We are focused on wildfire planning and vegetation fuel mitigation. Issues with law enforcement, the recreation vendors and with county staff are beyond our charter, scope and control. Additionally, to date, the Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council has not applied for nor has it received any funding, public or private. Voluntary contributions are requested and appreciated.

We encourage you to attend our meetings and become a productive part of our process.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kruse

Chairperson

Tim Kulton

Co-Chairperson

COUNTY COUNSEL  
ROBYN TRUITT DRIVON

CHIEF ASS'T. COUNTY COUNSEL

PRINCIPAL ASS'T. COUNTY COUNSEL  
JUDITH M. KERR

SR. DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL  
PAULA F. FRANTZ  
MICHAEL J. CICOZZI  
DAVID A. LIVINGSTON

EL DORADO COUNTY  
OFFICE OF  
THE COUNTY COUNSEL



COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
CENTER  
330 FAIR LANE  
PLACERVILLE, CA  
95667  
(530) 621-5770  
FAX# (530) 621-2937

DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL  
LESLEY B. GOMES  
KATHLEEN A. MARKHAM  
JANETH D. SANPEDRO  
ABIGAIL L. ROSEMAN  
LAUREN C. BOWERS  
JOMO K. STEWART

December 11, 2015

Melody Lane  
Compass 2 Truth  
P.O. Box 598  
Coloma, CA. 95613

Re: CPRA dated December 02, 2015, pertaining to the Coloma/Lotus Fire Safe Council.

Dear Ms. Lane:

In response to your CPRA dated December 2, 2015, regarding the Coloma/Lotus Fire Safe Council, the County has the following response:

1. The County has no records "substantiating the application of the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council, the date it was formed, the names of the officers and the method/policies by which they were selected." The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and the various local sub-councils are not County agencies. The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council is a non-profit public benefit corporation formed as a tax exempt organization. The County did not govern their initial formation, does not govern the formation of local sub-councils, and does not select their officers, set their policies or keep their records. They do not submit the names of their officers to the County. Therefore, for documents about the formation of the local councils, and for information about the names of officers and the council's selection policies, I suggest you contact the Fire Safe Council directly. Their website is [edcfiresafe.org](http://edcfiresafe.org). Their address is El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, P.O. Box 1011, Diamond Springs, CA 95619, and their phone number is 647-1700.

Members of the Board of Supervisors sometimes attend Fire Safe Council meetings in their district, as they attend other public meetings. To try to help you in your research into timing of formation of the Coloma Lotus Council, I have attached minutes from all of the Board of Supervisors meetings where attendance at Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council meetings was mentioned. In addition, the Fire Safe Council made a presentation to the Board on December 08, 2015, and information about the Fire Safe Council is available on the County's website as part of the agenda for that date. However, I did not see any specific reference to Coloma Lotus in the materials for that day.

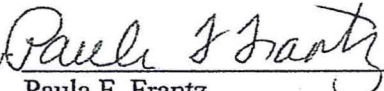
Melody Lane  
December 10, 2014  
Page 2

2. The County has no "copies of contracts/agreements with the Coloma Fire Safe Council" or contracts with "tree trimming/chipping agencies" in the Coloma-Lotus area. We located one contract with a tree service, to perform services on County owned property in Placerville which did not seem responsive to your request but I've attached it for your review.
3. I have attached copies of "all correspondence between Supervisor Ranalli, Tim Kulton, Deborah Kruse and all officers and active participants pertaining to the implementation of the Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council."

I hope this is of assistance.

Sincerely,

ROBYN TRUITT DRIVON  
County Counsel

By   
Paula F. Frantz  
Sr. Deputy County Counsel

cc: Board of Supervisors:  
Brian K. Veerkamp, Chair, District III  
Ron Mikulaco, District I  
Shiva Frentzen, District II  
Michael Ranalli, District IV  
Sue Novasel, District V



# Board of Supervisors back in business tomorrow

**Chris Daley**  
Staff writer

After a three-week holiday hiatus, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors returns to its regular Tuesday schedule tomorrow, Jan. 5, for its first official meeting of 2016. Traditionally, the board begins its new year with elections for board chairperson, vice chair and second vice chair.

Brian Veerkamp held the gavel throughout 2015 and, if another tradition holds, District 18 Ron Mikulaco, as the current board's next longest-sitting board member, will be in line for the chair this year. In addition to voting on and assigning board positions, supervisors also have a long slate of "non-district specific appointments to various boards, commissions or committees for the terms

stated," as recommended by Board Clerk Jim Mitrisin. Citizen members serve on a variety of these non-district entities, which includes a broad range of issues the county oversees, from the Agriculture Commission and Cemetery Advisory to Child Abuse Prevention Council and a Fire Advisory Board.

The list extends to the Mental Health Commission, In-Home Supportive Services Advisory, Law Library Trustees, Placerville Airport Advisory, Sierra Economic Development Corporation and the Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District. Appointments range from two years to four years.

The board clerk's recommendations are on the consent agenda; they will be voted on as a block unless supervisors, staff or members of the public request discussion of a particular item or a particular appointment. Following approval of the consent agenda, supervisors will hear several specific departmental issues.

Next supervisors will shuffle their official participation in 42 external boards, commissions, joint partnership authorities and the like. The county's Transit Authority, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, the El Dorado Water Agency, Rural County Representatives of California, Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor JPA, and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency are among the most significant posts to be filled.

Supervisors with a special interest in a particular subject or issue may request re-election or reappointment to that commission or JPA. For example, Supervisor Mikulaco requested a seat on the Capital Southeast Connector JPA after he was elected because that project mainly affects District 1 directly. Likewise, District 5 Supervisor Sue Novasel serves as the primary board member on the TRPA.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors meets in board chambers at 330 Fair Lane, Bldg A in Placerville. Public sessions generally begin at 9 a.m. Upcoming agendas may be accessed on the county's website under Board of Supervisors - Agendas.

## Item of special note

Outgoing County Counsel Robyn Driven has recommended the board approve a \$150,000 attorneys contract to defend the county's collection of fees under the Mitigation Fee Act.

In December El Dorado Hills couple Thomas and Helen Austin sued the county, seeking refunds of building permit fees levied and collected by the county. The suit alleges that the county continues to collect and accumulate fees even though it is in violation of the Mitigation Fee Act. The suit seeks refunds of approximately \$20 million from the county, \$5 million from El Dorado Hills Community Services District and \$3 million from the El Dorado Hills Fire Department.

Driven's recommendation states that the legal fees paid to the attorneys, Abbott & Kindermann of Sacramento, will be funded out of the permit fee funds named in the lawsuit — the county's Traffic Impact Mitigation fees, El Dorado Hills Public Safety Facility fee, the El Dorado Hills Fire fee and the El Dorado Hills CSD Park fee.

In a phone interview on Friday, El Dorado County Auditor-Controller Joe Ham, who said he's repeatedly warned county supervisors in writing that the county was violating the Mitigation Fee Act, voiced concerns about Driven's recommendation.

"Why should the El Dorado Hills Fire Department pay any of these attorney's fees? EDH Fire completed its nexus studies on a timely basis and submitted it to the CAO," he said. "Due to negligence in the CAO's Office the study sat on a shelf for 15 months, causing the violation of state law."

"I agree with Robyn that the county needs outside legal representation because this is a very important case," Ham continued. "But we shouldn't waste money trying to defend and justify the EDH Public Safety Facility Fee. That fee is clearly unlawful and the county has no plans to build a public safety facility in El Dorado Hills."



# Compass2Truth

*Citizens Serving God in Truth and Liberty*

P.O. Box 598  
Coloma, CA 95613  
[melody.lane@reagan.com](mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com)

December 15, 2015

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
EDC Clerk to the Board

## CA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST

Pursuant to my rights under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.), I ask to obtain the following:

- Documentation from the County Auditor identifying each of the outside law firms contracted by El Dorado County to supplement County Counsel's team of 14 lawyers; and
- The total annual dollar amount budgeted and/or allocated to each of those outside law firms, and
- The percentage of the county budget and/or General Funds annually allocated solely to Law and Justice.

If you determine that some but not all of the information is exempt from disclosure and that you intend to withhold it, I ask that you provide a signed notification citing the legal authorities on whom you rely.

To avoid unnecessary costs of duplication, electronic copies are acceptable and may be emailed to [melody.lane@reagan.com](mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com). It is requested that your determination be made within **10 days** as stipulated within the California Public Records Act, **Government Code 6253(c)**.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation and timely reply.

Melody Lane  
**Founder – Compass2Truth**

## Melody Lane

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**From:** Joe Harn <joe.harn@edcgov.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 04, 2016 5:08 PM  
**To:** Melody Lane  
**Cc:** Paula Frantz  
**Subject:** Fwd: Legal

Melody,

I just became cognizant of your PRA dated 12-15-15. Here is a partial response.

This is a list of attorneys that the County paid during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The list may be incomplete. Some of the attorneys provide consulting services rather than legal services.

A number of the law firms have had a relationship with the County for years.

Joe Harn  
Auditor-Controller  
El Dorado County

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Keely Giovannoni <[keely.giovannoni@edcgov.us](mailto:keely.giovannoni@edcgov.us)>

**Date:** Mon, Aug 31, 2015 at 4:23 PM

**Subject:** Re: Legal

**To:** Joe Harn <[joe.harn@edcgov.us](mailto:joe.harn@edcgov.us)>

DEPT	VENDOR	AMOUNT PAID 14/15
02	FOSTER EMPLOYMENT LAW	147.50
02	PRENTICE LONG & EPPERSON	15,627.03
03	CALFEE & KONWINSKI	3,127.50
04	WRIGHT LAW OFFICE	6,127.80
07	ANDREW CAULFIELD	20,083.94
07	BRADY & VINDING	24,188.07
07	CHARD D JONES A PRO CORP	137.50
07	HANSON BRIDGETT	3,940.89
08	ANWYL, SCOFFIELD & STEPP	32,481.78
08	BRADLEY S THOMAS	3,887.80
08	ANDREW CAULFIELD	135,587.80
08	STEPHAN MASON	35,300.75
08	FOSTER EMPLOYMENT LAW	105,195.56
08	DOWNNEY BRAND	4,050.00
08	VALENTINA REINER	92,659.50
08	PORTER SCOTT	100,733.94
08	JEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	149,268.70
08	JEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	8,079.50
08	MEYERS NAVE RIBACK SILVER	46,639.90
08	MURCH BASSOFF & ASSOC	10,350.00
08	SHAW VALENZA	29,645.00
08	NNE SLOAN HOLZMAN & SAKAI	16,133.62
08	ANGELO, KILDAY, & KILDUFF	9,536.81
30	MEYERS NAVE RIBACK SILVER	36,894.16
34	ABBOTT & KNDERMAN	43,013.96
34	RANDALL MORRISON	14,835.83
34	STEPHAN VALENTINE	600.00
40	WRIGHT LAW OFFICE	10,653.30
42	LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS BRUEN	5,743.56
42	THE GALLAGHER LAW GROUP	4,745.00
43	LEGALESE ATTY SVCS	2,355.00
53	LEGALESE ATTY SVCS	2,275.00
53	JEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	6,442.70
72	DOWNNEY BRAND	3,003.50
79	AMERICAN EAGLE ATTY SVCS	11,451.00
		<u>994,943.90</u>
CONFLICT PANE	VARIOUS	223,221.15

Keely Giovannoni  
Auditor-Controllers Office  
El Dorado County  
(530) 621-5421  
(530) 295-2535 FAX

On Mon, Aug 31, 2015 at 4:21 PM, Keely Giovannoni <[keely.giovannoni@edcgov.us](mailto:keely.giovannoni@edcgov.us)> wrote:

Keely Giovannoni  
Auditor-Controllers Office  
El Dorado County  
(530) 621-5421  
(530) 295-2535 FAX