

LATE DISTRIBUTION

#2

9/24/12

SPTC corridor. For BO'S. 9-24-12. # 2
Statement of Supervisor Jack Sweeney

This Board has lost sight of the potential for use of a valuable asset! We would not have this asset without the combined efforts of the members of the SPTC JPA. We alone did not have the wherewithal to make the purchase price demanded by Southern Pacific. We alone would not have been able to create the connectivity to other trackage and corridors that are available with the protection of the corridor we have with the JPA. It was, by the way, the County of El Dorado that insisted on protection of that connectivity even on dissolution of all other relations.

Now we have fallen trap to the worst enemy of the common good, a fight over the spoils of our accomplishments. We now fight over who singularly gets to use the corridor to the exclusion of others.

In the 1987 era I led the effort to beat the railroad and to form the JPA that could obtain title to and provide for the protection of the corridor that could serve all of our communities with a multi-use corridor; and now we would destroy that effort!

If we do not want our heirs to look back at our actions and decry our choices, we should continue to move forward with finding how we can provide the greatest opportunity for the maximum future use of this potentially huge economic opportunity. We must not choose sides but be leaders of all to successful multi-functional use of the corridor.

If some of you wish to explore closing the JPA or limiting the use to some singular purpose or entity, you should frame your questions and ask the Board to pose them to Counsel and staff.

In addition, you should look at the goals of the JPA in creating the license agreement; these goals were prepared in part to protect the integrity of the corridor, to avoid exclusive use and to avoid liability to the JPA or it's members individually.

Now, I ask you to examine the structure of the entities that might use the corridor. The proposed license agreement is to an entity incorporated under California Law and would be required to provide insurance to protect the JPA and it's member agencies.

However, the El Dorado Western RR is at best a non-profit operating under the auspices of the County Museum; hence, a County entity.

Does the County want this liability? I think not!

So, let's move forward to establish how we can provide for multi-use of this corridor and define how various parties can enjoy the joint use. We need to define how maintenance and control of our land will be accomplished.

Please continue the vision we had in the late 1980's and early 1990's and not exclude potential users or destroy this great asset.

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