

4/5/11
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Mr. Chair, Members of the Board, Adam Baughman, Senior Planner, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

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First, I would like to apologize to the Director & Assistant Director for the tenor of my previous letter to the Board. I meant no disrespect, but please understand the situation I was in. A brand new-first time daddy, on paternity leave for 2 weeks, facing the possibility of a layoff before I even returned, with almost no time to respond. Things were written that were inappropriate and out of passion, and I wholeheartedly apologize.

Having said this, I'd like to briefly describe the value of the Senior Planner position to the Dept and the County.

I'm a Senior Planner in a world of Engineers at DOT. I do all of the things Engineers ~~don't really want to do~~, including Environmental Review, Grant Writing, Discretionary Review, and Special Research projects; all for about \$20,000 less a year than the equivalent Senior Civil Engineer. None of these tasks require an Engineering degree to complete, and frankly, these skills lie outside of the Engineers' core competencies. In short, they like to design and construct, and these listed tasks are best suited for a Planner. However, with the elimination of my position, the remaining engineers will be called on to perform these duties.

In the interest of time I'll focus on the one area that probably interests your Board the most: Grant Writing.

As you know, El Dorado County is neither the smallest, poorest County, nor the largest, richest of Counties. As such, we tend to have to fight for every grant dollar we can, as earmarks rarely come our way, and we don't qualify for special grants relating to predominantly low-income Counties.

Until a couple of years ago, DOT had one grant writer, primarily focused on road-related grants, who was extremely busy successfully bringing in millions of dollars of grants. When DOT expanded to envelop General Services, Parks, Trails, and Airports, a whole new array of potential funding sources opened up. I was brought on to go after these additional funds and to supplement the existing grant writer.

\$2.5M

In one year working in this capacity, I was the lead on 8 separate grant applications with a total request of over \$10M. We've received almost \$2M from these requests and are still waiting to hear on some remaining grants. These projects ranged from energy efficiency, to parks and trails, to increased environmental mitigation; all areas DOT hadn't typically applied for in the past. I also assisted the current grant writer on many more, successful road-related grants totaling \$2.5M, all within the past year. At the risk of sounding self-serving, I think we've more than paid for ourselves.

In summary, I think the benefits the Senior Planner position brings to DOT and the County far outweigh the costs.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak.

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