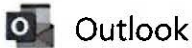


Public comment
BOS Rcvd 4/15/25
25-0732



Fw: Forebay Park and Playground

From Emma L. Owens <Emma.Owens@edcgov.us>

Date Tue 4/15/2025 12:57 PM

To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

1 attachment (23 KB)

letter to BOS and CAO 4-13-25.docx;

Hello,

Can you please attach this to Legistar item 25-0732? I believe that is the item she was intending this letter for.

Best Regards,

Emma Owens

Principal Management Analyst
Chief Administrative Office
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane, Building A
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: 530.621.5122
Pronouns: she/her

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From: harperworld419@gmail.com <harperworld419@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 7:26 AM

To: BOS-District V <bosfive@edcgov.us>; BOS-District I <bosone@edcgov.us>; BOS-District II <bostwo@edcgov.us>; BOS-District III <bosthree@edcgov.us>; BOS-District IV <bosfour@edcgov.us>; AD-EDCCAO <edccao@edcgov.us>

Cc: Jeanne Harper <harperworld419@gmail.com>; Ken Harper <klharper1@comcast.net>

Subject: Forebay Park and Playground

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Dear CAO and Supervisors:

It's been quite a while since you have heard from Ken or me. We send greetings from Greencastle, Indiana. That being said, I was devastated to learn of the loss of our promised grant money which of course translates into the loss of our playground in Pollock Pines. The attached letter speaks directly to our continuing concern for the beautiful, pristine community in which we lived for over 2 decades.

It won't be easy for some of you to read...it wasn't easy for me to write. We are mourning the loss of something so beautiful, so practical, so economically focused...and so deserved by the youth and families of Pollock Pines, Nature's Wonderland.

I do hope that you will read this letter at the Board meeting tomorrow. And that it will be entered into the official records. Transparency is needed.

Respectfully....

J.

*Impossible is just
an opinion! ☺*

*Jeanne Harper
(530) 613-1332*

To: EDC Board Of Supervisors & CAO

From: Jeanne Harper

4-11-25

Dear Supervisors and CAO:

First of all, even though my husband and I relocated over 2 years ago, it does not mean that our hearts and concern for our home for over 2 decades in Pollock Pines is not still very much alive in our hearts. We are speaking for the many residents and businesses that have been working on the Playground and subsequently the Forebay Park for over 9 years. Please also know that we both stepped down from the CEDAPP Board after moving to Indiana; however CEDAPP continues to bring business to the businesses of Pollock Pines by the many annual activities they continue to host.

It's taken me these several days since I was advised about your decision to take away the money that had been awarded to us to be able to write to you regarding the tragic loss of the grant money (\$3 million) we received about 4 years ago in order to bring Pollock Pines the playground that so many of the Pollock Pines residents and businesses, as well as other supporters from elsewhere in the county invested their time, treasure and talent for the past 9 years of collaboration, design, community meetings, fundraisers, etc., supposedly in partnership with EDC.

For me, the issue is twofold – the money and timing:

Both the Board of Supervisors and the EDC Parks and Recreation Commission approved the \$3 million Prop 68 grant to our Forebay Project stating we were the only community in EDC that did not have a public playground for its children or family members for healthy outdoor activities. We were also told repeatedly in videoed county meetings that we were the only qualifier for the grant because of its focus. It then became a matter of using that money for the adjoining park as well. I'm just not understanding how that grant money that was received with the sole purpose of creating a playground and park for Pollock Pines could just be taken away. Aren't there standards that apply to the conditions of the grant? I, and I'm sure others, would be very interested in seeing the actual grant (Prop. 68) as it was submitted and the response received upon its award.

As I am reflecting back now, sadly, we were also disapproved by the CAO from submitting our own application for Proposition 68, citing the possibility of a perception of competition. He would not sign the required signature for our application, even though it was completed after many hours of effort by two of our community members. The belief was that if the county did not get the grant (as had been the sad fact previously) we might have an even

greater chance given the nature of the grant. In any event, it would go right back to the county...because that's the way government works. "Our" playground - we always knew would belong to the county no matter how much work, time or money we would put into it ourselves...but that was ok with us. We just wanted our children and families to have a public playground like other communities. The playground was designed by the community to compliment the natural and historic surroundings of that locale.

This endeavor began in January 2016. CEDAPP, and later the Pollock Pines Playground People, worked together with the county to get the designs done correctly and on time while fulfilling all of the obligations required by all government agencies. This was done. What was not done brings me to the second issue.

What was not done all along the way was timely, appropriate action-based responses to begin the work on the playground/park. Despite meetings and persistent communications with the powers that were in place at the time (some still are), month after month and ultimately, year after year, there was no movement towards beginning the actual construction of the then approved designs as were created by the community residents and businesses in Pollock Pines. There were constant changes of direction brought before us. Even so, we continued to work with the county in getting the job done. The design was focused on retaining the rustic (Nature's Wonderland), historic atmosphere of our community, and a plan to also assist the school with historic lessons and businesses by bringing more people to the community who would then use the opportunity to visit some of our local eateries and other businesses. It was as much economic as it was recreational for all ages and all abilities. No other public playground in EDC had an ALL ABILITIES playground, another significant factor of our plan.

To repeat: money and timing. If the county had responded in a timely manner several years ago, we would not be in this position now. And our children and families would have a beautiful, unique, historic playground and source of economic development.

The question that has not been answered is...Who is responsible for a \$20 million deficit?! This deficit has caused several projects to be canceled, not just ours. Because of this shortfall, however, we can't even hire a full time librarian for the Pollock Pines Library. How much more of our community do you want to keep stripping away? When will our community become a priority for any of you? I have to ask the community of Pollock Pines; "Do you deserve to always be put in last place by EDC powers that be?" When my husband and I first moved to Pollock Pines in 2002 and I became the principal at Sierra Ridge Middle School, I was told by someone who had lived in the community all her life and had been involved in organizational decisions for her adult life, that PP had always been the "bastard child of the county." I didn't want to believe it at the time and even while going through so

many setbacks regarding the development of our playground, I still didn't believe it. But this latest piece takes my breath away and now I wonder about the truth of that statement from almost 25 years ago.

Getting back to the timing issue - another important question: Does a \$20 million deficit happen overnight? Why has there been no transparency about this since it began? And when did it begin? And why have there been no measures to address it, at least not that we, the community, knows of? Is there a reason it came about as an unexpected giant bombshell for everyone, not just Pollock Pines? People can deal with quite a lot if they just know the issues and can understand and count on effective actions. To do less than that is to disrespect your own constituency.

To all Pollock Pines residents and businesses, I am so sorry that our great expectations in delivering a fantastic playground has been stolen from you. The CEDAPP Board and the Pollock Pines Playground People are all heartbroken. We grieve right alongside you. But there is a need for transparency. I'm not sure any of it can be justified, but perhaps a more complete understanding might help.

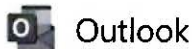
I guess the next question is...what can happen next regarding getting a public playground for the youth and families of Pollock Pines? I also have to wonder why, if my information is correct, has there not been a replacement for me (District 5) on the Parks and Recreation Commission. It has been approximately 27 months since I stepped down from the Commission. Why has there been no one to keep our community at the table?

Again, I am fully aware of all of the cut-backs and destroyed projects, not just ours, but where are the answers? Where is the hope?

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Jeanne Harper

Public Comment
BOS RCVD 4/16/2025
25-0732



Budget Process 2025-2026

From Ruth Michelson <ruthmichelson@sbcglobal.net>

Date Tue 4/15/2025 5:04 PM

To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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(Dear Kim- Can you please distribute this letter to the addressees now, and then when the April 22, 2025 agenda comes out, can you attach this letter to the appropriate item? Thank you.- Ruth)

Dear CAO Schmid and Board of Supervisors;

I am trying to understand your process in cutting costs from the county budget. I'm probably not alone.

There was the 3 hour discussion of the DTOT in March, in which several categories of cuts were proposed.

Then, last week, April 8th, there was a 27 page power point presentation on more proposed budget cuts. How were the suggested budget cuts selected from the overall county budget? Why were so many suggested cuts from HHSA? It's the job of the CAO's office to come with this proposal, along with the input of Budget Ad Hoc committee of Supervisor Veercamp and Board Chair Turnboo. True?

Then it was said April 8th that if the proposed budget cuts met the \$15M (or is it \$20M?) goal, then the other county departments may not be called on to bring forward their proposed savings measures. What's the logic in that? Wouldn't you want to see the whole picture of what each department could do in cost saving measures and then decide of all the savings options available, which to choose to meet or exceed your intended goal?

The best metaphor I can come up with is planning a big meal that you want to keep to 1000 calories. So far you have only seen the choices for appetizers and side dishes. But, you haven't gotten to the meat and potatoes main dishes and desserts. Once you see all of the department's proposals for cost savings, then you can decide how much of each option to choose for your desired outcome.

Please let me know if I am missing some point of logic here.

Thank you.

Ruth Michelson
District 4

publiccomment BOS rec'd
25-0732
#24
4/17/25



Public Comment from Our EGG Item #25-0732, 2-22-25

From Lexi Boeger <lexi@ouregg.org>

Date Thu 4/17/2025 3:48 PM

To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>; Tiffany Schmid <Tiffany.Schmid@edcgov.us>

Cc George Turnboo <George.Turnboo@edcgov.us>; Greg P. Ferrero <Greg.Ferrero@edcgov.us>; Brooke Laine <Brooke.Laine@edcgov.us>; Brian K. Veerkamp <Brian.Veerkamp@edcgov.us>; Lori Parlin <lori.parlin@edcgov.us>; BOS-District I <bosone@edcgov.us>; BOS-District II <bostwo@edcgov.us>; BOS-District III <bosthree@edcgov.us>; BOS-District IV <bosfour@edcgov.us>; BOS-District V <bosfive@edcgov.us>

📎 1 attachment (551 KB)

OurEGG_BOS_letter.pdf;

Be Careful With This Message

The sender's email domain has been active for a short period of time and could be unsafe.

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Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please submit our attached letter (OurEGG_BOSletter.PDF) to public comment for item #25-0732 on the 2-22-25 meeting agenda.

Dear Honorable Members of the Board,

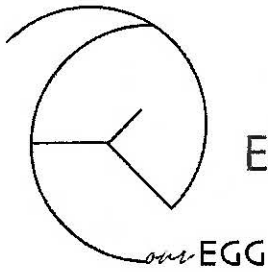
Please see the attached introduction from Our EGG, *El Dorado Economic GENERATOR & GERMINATION*, a locally focused independent economic development organization. We look forward to your leadership and engagement on the critical work that lays ahead for your board and our great community. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Best,
Lexi Boeger

--
Lexi Boeger

Co-founder Our EGG

Economic Generator and Germination for El Dorado
People-Powered and Rurally Rooted



El Dorado ECONOMIC GENERATOR & GERMINATION

Co-Founders:

Lauren Hernandez
Lauren@ouregg.org

Lexi Boeger
Lexi@ouregg.org
OurEGG.org

April 19, 2025

To: The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Regarding: Budget policy decisions, revenue and the future of community economic vitality

Dear Honorable Members of the Board,


We are Our EGG, *El Dorado Economic GENERATOR & GERMINATION Fund*, a non-profit community and economic development organization formed and operating under the El Dorado Community Foundation to step in on the ground level to steward vitality for the stakeholders, businesses, workers and all county people and their families who are touched by, and depend on, our local economy for their health, dreams, goals and prosperity.

The spirit of innovation embodied in the founding days of El Dorado County should inspire our present and future. With the challenges we face, we need our leaders to see our best days ahead, carried forward with bold action to invest in activating underutilized community assets — people, places and knowledge — catalyzing a golden opportunity.

Now more than ever, local economic self-sufficiency, resilience and insulation from outside factors beyond our control is of the highest priority. With the current and projected continued budgetary challenges, comes an opportunity to mobilize the community around a common vision and change the trajectory of diminishing revenue. The good news is that the solution is within view on our horizon. The people, industries and businesses that are here, as well as new ones to come, are ready and willing to contribute to mutual efforts to achieve economic sustainability to bolster vital county services that support a safe, healthy and thriving community.

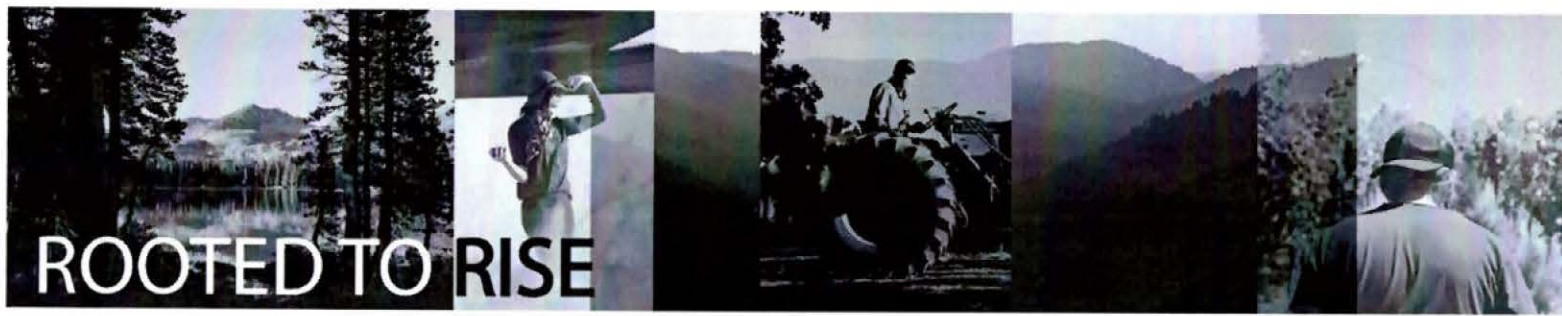
El Dorado County has incredible value and potential that can sustain our beautiful landscapes, while providing for the fiscal needs of its citizens and the county's budget. The drivers of revenue and community-centered action in this county invite you to the table to begin efforts towards a resilient and prosperous future for the people, families, businesses and organizations who make our county so special. Let's work together to ensure our county shines as an epicenter of innovation, investment and hard-work, embodying the pioneering spirit for many generations to come.

Signed,


Lauren Hernandez
Co-Founder


Lexi Boeger
Co-Founder

*Please see the attached page for an overview of Our EGG's **current Working Lands project** which we are working in tandem with our established industry organizations and community partners.



The El Dorado Economic Generator and Germination Fund (Our EGG) proposes a shovel-ready project - **ROOTED to RISE - an El Dorado County Working Lands Economic Master Plan** – aimed at identifying, defining and creating new and expanded Working Lands businesses, quality jobs and opportunities. Creating a place-based thriving rural economy that generates prosperity for working lands businesses, landowners, rural people and the county through thoughtful and efficient land-use policies, expanded property opportunities, streamlined processes and financing mechanisms of mutual community benefit.

Rooted to Rise envisions a diverse and symbiotic multi-conomy that brings outdoor recreation, agriculture, connected trails systems, experience economy, gathering venues, rural lodging and other sustainable compatible uses that preserve our beloved land and watershed while providing critical revenue to the county and its rural working people.

WORKING LANDS EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY:

- Build collaborative and integrated partnerships that will increase the EGG's capacity to facilitate on-the-ground climate resilient rural community investment strategy development.
- Study to identify existing, emerging and new environmentally sustainable crops and compatible economic/commercial uses on county recognized working landscapes in rural community areas and complete economic impact projections.
- Facilitate workshops, focus groups and surveys with rural community members, landowners, community organizations, and Working Lands stakeholders to gather input, assess barriers and foster collaborative relationships.
- Assess rural community conditions, barriers and opportunities for new business creation and expanded Working Lands quality jobs.
- Assess the viability of supportive service programming including various land-access models, knowledge-sharing, cooperatives and regional partnerships.
- Develop a comprehensive EDC Working Lands Economic Master Plan creating a blueprint with actionable steps, timelines, and resource requirements for implementation.
- **Secure funding for costs of implementation including environmental studies, planning services, policy crafting and programming.**