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#37

Board of Supervisors Meeting August 11, 2015--Agenda Items 36 and 37

1 message

SCOTT FINLEY <sbginley@sbcglobal.net>

Tue, Aug 11, 2015 at 2:42 PM

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Chair Veercamp and Fellow Supervisors Mikulaco, Frenzen, Ranelli and Novosel:

I just recently became aware of the presentations to be made to your Board regarding the issue of El Dorado County and support for the self-named "State of Jefferson". It does not appear to me that your Board is contemplating taking an action with regard to this agenda item, as the recommendation is to simply receive and file both presentations. I note, however that the proponents of the State of Jefferson have presented your Board with a proposed Declaration, and are requesting your Board adopt it. This is not a frivolous matter, and should not be taken lightly.

As a native northern Californian, and a 27 year resident of El Dorado County, I can understand and in some instances even sympathize with some of the frustrations spawning this campaign. Before your Board gives nay thought to proceeding any further with this concept, your Board needs to require anybody bringing this type of suggestion to your Board to accompany it with the following, at a minimum:

- 1) Have whoever is proposing this concept fully and publicly identify who they are--and not just in EDC, but statewide. The materials submitted to your Board do not seem to have a name attached to them. This is apparently an extensive political organization, and so should be fully transparent. Who is running this show? The primary website, "www.soj51.net", contains no identifying information as to what the organization is, and does not disclose where funding come from. For example, who drafted the proposed Declaration?
- 2) State the boundary of the proposed new state and identify all of the counties. Not just who is in--who is already out. And, is southern Oregon (home of the original Jefferson Public Radio) in or out?
- 3) Provide a description of the proposed new governance structure. What is the effect of this new governmental entity upon your constituents? By the way, where would be new proposed capitol be located?
- 4) Provide a robust, in depth, independent and comprehensive fiscal analysis of both costs and revenues for the proposed governance structure. As your Board is aware from the proposal to incorporate El Dorado Hills, there is a requirement that before the Local Agency Formation Commission consider a new city incorporation, a comprehensive fiscal analysis must be done. Running a new city is child's play compared to running a new state. Again, the fiscal impacts of such a proposal upon your consituents should be explained.
- 5) Provide a complete legal analysis of the full process for creating a new state, which should be reviewed and approved by your County Counsel to assure it is accurate.

I'm sure there's much more that needs to be considered--these are just my initial thoughts. I don't believe that there is any need at this point to explain why El Dorado County should "stay in California". The full burden of justifying any change in the status quo falls upon the proponents.

In closing, let me recommend you read a recently published book on this topic: "The Elusive State of Jefferson", by Peter Laufer, published by TwoDot, an imprint of Globe Pequot, in 2013. It gives an excellent history of this movement, and you may find it thought-provoking.

Sincerely,

Scott Finley

El Dorado Hills, CA 94762