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Mountain Democrat



King Fire 98% contained, unified command ends

The balancing act: The budget debacle

By Larry Weitzman

From page A4 | October 06, 2014 |

With winter coming it was a good thing that Supervisor Ron Mikulaco and Auditor Joe Harn came up with a plan to pay for the second snowplow and saved the county \$50,000 interest instead of following the Community Development Agency's plan to lease it, which is usually the most expensive way to acquire anything.

It was an item that dated from June 2013 that the Chief Administrative Office and the CDA handled more like the Three Stooges with no insult to the Stooges intended (See Sept. 22 Balancing Act). There will be an investigation to find the mistakes made, by who and why. Even our CAO, who signed the purchase order, made a \$30,000 mistake on the purchase price (she doubled the sales tax), which did get corrected during the Sept. 23 Board of Supervisors meeting. At the same meeting, unfortunately the overall El Dorado County budget was approved on a 3-2 vote with a huge deficit. Mikulaco and Supervisor Shiva Frentzen voted no.

But the fiscal future of EDC may be beyond help. While Terri Daly's CAO's office has grown from 16 employees in the fiscal year 2011-12 to 72.5 employees for the fiscal year 2014-15 which included half-dozen or more new highly paid "analysts" with titles like CAO Admin Analyst, Department or Principal Administrative Analyst, overall county hiring in the last three years by the CAO, Terri Daly, amounted to 170 new employees. But none of those hirings were in the most important county departments such as the Sheriff's Office or the DA's Office. In other words, county services have not improved, and, if you consider the snowplow debacle, services have gone in the other direction.

These new county employees have added about \$14 million to county expenses. If you add in the cost of the 15 percent raises recommended by Terri Daly you can add another \$7 million to budget expenses or about \$20-21 million annually.

Here is the problem Terri Daly has created. While the CAO claims the budget will be in balance for FY 2014-15, it isn't. Revenues (which are mostly property taxes and sales tax with the division being about 60/40) are projected at \$222 million. But expenses are \$254 million. That's not balanced, but a negative \$32 million.

The way the CAO figures is that as of the end of the last fiscal year, June 30, the county had \$45 million on hand (down from \$54 million at the end FY 2013) and EDC will plug the gap with the county savings. In the following year (2015-16) spending will outstrip revenues, according to county forecasts, by \$27.5 million. Known bank reserves will only be \$13 million. The county will be out of cash.

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In the three following years the combined forecasted deficits will be another \$89 million. El Dorado County will be upside down by \$103 million.

Perhaps there will be a higher sales tax proposed for El Dorado County, possibly a 25 percent rise and that will still not totally solve the problem while damaging local business.

And why? Because our CAO hired 170 new employees over the last three years, claiming we are still not back to pre-recession levels of staffing (and implying that the recession is over). Being a county employee making over \$200,000 a year plus benefits (about \$250,000-\$260,000 a year total), Daly never felt the recession. We are still in a severe recession, with real unemployment well over 10 percent and housing prices significantly depressed.

With respect to those employees that were hired within the CAO's office, salaries have grown by about \$4.5 million since fiscal year 2011-12, with a total of about 56 new employees. That equates to an average salary of \$80,000 per employee. And you wonder why we have a budget problem. Using that same salary cost for the 170 employees hired by Terri Daly during the last three years and the total reaches \$13.6 million. But, wait, there's more.

Within that hiring of 56.5 employees 18 were classified as some sort of analyst, Fiscal Tech or administrator; 18, all hired in the last two years. Is Daly that bad an administrator that she needs that much help? If they are analysts or administrators, they are not doing their jobs as can be seen by the terrible fiscal shape the county is in. The total cost for those 18 employees is \$112,700 a month or about \$1.35 million a year plus benefits (about \$1.7 million a year total). Those seven newly hired (within the last two years) CAO employees with the actual title of analyst had total monthly salaries totaling \$43,000 or about \$645,000 a year with benefits. And you wonder why we are looking at huge deficits.

On top of all this spending, Daly recommended that the county give all employees a 15 percent raise over three years starting in 2014. Total cost of that will be about \$7 million annually. Without the hiring and without the 15 percent raise, there would be no budget deficit.

If you study the Chief Financial Officer Laura Schwartz's budget projections, the total deficits through FY 2018-19 are only \$51 million. CAO Daly claims there will be savings of \$32 million from the multimillion dollar Fenix accounting system of which she has yet to produce one work paper demonstrating these savings and other county budget saving of about \$20 million that will materialize out of totally unproven savings devices. Please, CAO, show us the data.

Terri Daly's solution is an across-the-board 3 percent salary saving in all departments. First, why should longer-term employees pay for Daly's excesses? Second, about 35 percent of the new hires were under the CAO's office. She gains; every other department suffers. And finally a 3 percent salary saving does nothing. It's a gimmick. The solution is laying off the new hires, especially those in Daly's office. Looking at the budget deficits, they and Daly are responsible.

Daly loves the words "Strategic Investments" and uses them liberally in everything she writes and says. The term should be as demonstrated above, "useless and wasteful spending." One more thing, with all these new employees, there has been no improvement in county services.

Larry Weitzman is a resident of Rescue.

Comments

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M. Lane Open Form 305 10-7-14



Compass2Truth

Citizens Serving God in Truth and Liberty

P.O. Box 598
Coloma, CA 95613
(530) 642-1670
melody.lane@reagan.com

October 6, 2014

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 copies of the following pertaining to Deputy Terri Cissna:

1. Current job description and official title
2. Signed Oath of Office
3. Offer letter of employment. If this information is not available, please provide an explanation.
4. Documentation indicating the **total number of Citizen Complaints** filed against Deputy Cissna since 2005 inclusive.

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. It is requested that your determination be made **within 10 days** as stipulated within the California Public Records Act, **Government Code 6253(c)**. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

Melody Lane
Founder - Compass2Truth

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Compass2Truth

Citizens Serving God in Truth and Liberty

P.O. Box 598
Coloma, CA 95613
(530) 642-1670
melody.lane@reagan.com

October 6, 2014

To: EDC Clerk to the Board
EDC Board of Supervisors

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:

- A copy of all correspondence generated within the past 5 years inclusive (i.e. emails, letters, contracts, agreements, etc.) by El Dorado County personnel relevant to the **Coloma Resort** and the **Mt. Murphy Road Bridge in Coloma**.

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.

Charges for reproduction of records are limited to the direct costs of materials as stipulated by **Government Code 6253(b)** and **AB1234**. To avoid unnecessary costs of duplication, electronic copies are acceptable and may be emailed to 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.

Melody Lane
Founder – Compass2Truth

Melody Lane

From: Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 6:07 PM
To: norma.santiago@edcgov.us
Cc: judi.mccallum@edcgov.us; Pamela Knorr; Kimberly Kerr
Subject: Meeting Today - Public Record Request 9-9-14
Attachments: PRA response w attachments.pdf

Hi Norma,

Thanks for meeting with us today. We hope the time was well spent and will contribute to resolving these issues.

As requested, attached is Kim Kerr's reply to the Ross Branch CPRA. Note there is NO OFFER LETTER OF EMPLOYMENT nor is there anything that mentions the position of PIO (Public Information Officer) in his job description.

The CPRA that Ross asked me to fraudulently change the date and initial a few months ago at a BOS meeting was relevant to the Coloma Resort/Mt. Murphy Bridge CPRA.

Additionally Ross has failed to follow up to several other CPRAs pertaining to EDSO, public safety, and associated contracts/reports. Failure to respond to several CPRA's within the mandated 10 days is a misdemeanor under CA Public Record Act, Government Code 6250 et seq.

An agency has 10 days to decide if copies will be provided. In "unusual" cases (request is "voluminous," seeks records held off-site, OR requires consultation with other agencies), the agency may upon written notice to the requestors give itself an additional 14 days to respond. (◆6253(c)) **These time periods may not be used solely to delay access to the records. (◆ 6253(d))**

It is apparent the CAO has developed a clear pattern of incompetence and abuse of the public trust. Since Kim Kerr's signature was applied to several of the CPRAs I brought with me today, I'm sure Pamela Knorr will be diligent to ensure a follow up. The public has the right to know what measures are taken to protect the public trust in the HR process. At present it appears the county is in the "damage control" mode especially with the frequent turnover in personnel.

As we discussed, the matter of consequences for failure of all EDC staff to comply with the law, statutes, ordinances, and personnel policies & procedures needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. The potential for scandal and liability is obvious.

As discussed, please have Judi contact me regarding scheduling the time/date of our October follow up meeting.

Regards,

Melody Lane

Founder – *Compass2Truth*
Conservatives Serving God in Truth and Liberty

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"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 ~

From: Kimberly Kerr [mailto:Kimberly.Kerr@elcogov.us]
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2014 5:54 PM
To: Melody Lane
Cc: The BOSONE; The BOSFIVE; The BOSTHREE; The BOSTWO; The BOSFOUR; Theresa Daly
Subject: Public Record Request 9-9-14

Ms. Lane,

Please find our response to your Public Record Act request dated September 9, 2014.

Kim Kerr
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

County of El Dorado
Chief Administrative Office
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-7695

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Thank you.

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The County of El Dorado

Chief Administrative Office

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667-4197

Terri Daly
Chief Administrative Officer

Phone (530) 621-5530
Fax (530) 626-5730

September 19, 2014

Ms. Melody Lane
P.O. Box 598
Coloma, CA 95613

RE: Public Records Act request September 9, 2014
Request Received September 9, 2014

Dear Ms. Lane:

The Chief Administrative Office has received your Public Records Act request dated September 9, 2014. You request regards the following item(s):

You asked to obtain copies of the following pertaining to employee Ross Branch. Please see the County's response below:

- (1) **Job description and official title**
Enclosed
- (2) **Signed Oath of Office**
Enclosed
- (3) **Offer letter of employment**
There are no responsive documents
- (4) **Bonding Insurance company, policy number, address, and name of insurance agent**

*National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburg
Policy #01-309-61-64 & 01-309-61-65*

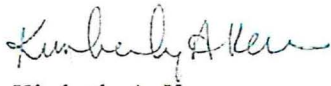
*County of El Dorado
Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667*

There is no insurance agent. The County is only entity that can file a claim involving a County employee.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 621-7695 or kimberly.kerr@edcgov.us.

Sincerely,



Kimberly A. Kerr
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

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Melody Lane

From: Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 06, 2014 11:12 PM
To: Janet Postlewait; norma.santiago@edcgov.us; Terri Daly; ron.briggs@edcgov.us
Cc: Bard Lower; adam.bane@edcgov.us; matt.smeltzer@edcgov.us; Kimberly Kerr; bosfive@edcgov.us; bosone@edcgov.us; bosthree@edcgov.us; bostwo@edcgov.us; 'Ron Briggs'
Subject: RE: Mt. Murphy SAC Meeting #2 Summary - CORRECTIONS
Attachments: MMBridge SAC Corrections 6-25-14.pdf

Please see the attached and make corrections accordingly prior to posting to the government website.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

Melody Lane

Founder – Compass2Truth
Conservatives Serving God in Truth and Liberty

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” ~ Martin Luther King ~

From: Janet Postlewait []
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 1:40 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Mt. Murphy SAC Meeting #2 Summary

Greetings SAC members.

Attached are the draft SAC Meeting #2 Summary and the Criteria table that incorporates your comments from the SAC Meeting #2. If you see any glaring errors, let us know. The summary and criteria will also be available on the Mt. Murphy Bridge web site either tomorrow or Monday.

The next meeting will be in August, but no date has been set. We'll let you know in plenty of time.

I also want to ask if any of you would be opposed to lengthening the next meeting an additional hour by starting at 5 and ending at 8:30. We have a lot of material to cover and this extra time would help quite a bit.

Again, thank you all for your involvement in this process. Your enthusiasm and dedication is very much appreciated.

Feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions.

Janet Postlewait

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El Dorado County Transportation
(530) 621-5993

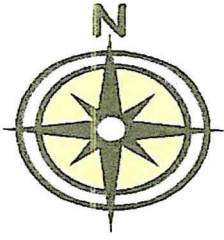
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Thank you.

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P.O. Box 598
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(530) 642-1670

melody.jane@compass2truth.com

June 25, 2014

TO: Norma Santiago, BOS Chairman
Ron Briggs, Dist. #4 Supervisor
Bard Lower, DOT Director
Kim Kerr, Assistant CAO

Terri Daly, CAO
Janet Postlewait, DOT
Matt Smeltzer, DOT
Adam Bane, EDC Project Manager

RE: Mt. Murphy Road Bridge SAC Summary Corrections

This correspondence is in response to Janet Postlewait's 6/12/14 email concerning corrections to the Mt. Murphy Road Bridge SAC Summaries.

The first SAC meeting held April 8, 2014 at the Gold Trail Grange Hall had one glaring omission.

After participants had been requested to use post-it notes identifying key issues on area maps, I was approached by Leslie Bonneau from CH2M Hill inquiring what was meant by the post-it note "*No Sustainable Development.*"

Our primary concern is that by utilizing the Delphi Technique local government is *predetermining outcomes of these CIP meetings*. Although the Delphi Technique appears on the surface to have merit, CH2M Hill indicates on their website that they are a strong proponent of Sustainable Development (aka **Agenda 21**.) The implication is that Sustainable Development represents a threat to property rights as extensively addressed during the 5/15/12 Board of Supervisors meeting.

In brief, the **Resolution Exposing United Nations Agenda 21** states the United Nations Agenda 21 is being covertly pushed into local communities throughout the United States of America through the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) through local "sustainable development" policies such as: Smart Growth, Wildlands Project, Resilient Cities, Regional Visioning Projects, and other "Green" or "Alternative" projects. It is a socialist/communist redistribution of wealth and, according to the United Nations Agenda 21 policy; National sovereignty is deemed a social injustice. The Board of Supervisors acknowledged the dangerous intent of the plan and the repercussions of its radical policies attached to the grant monies.

It was explained to the SAC group that Sustainable Development/Agenda 21 has been a topic of numerous meetings with the Board of Supervisors, CAO, Sheriff D'Agostini, CA State Parks, and legislators. I represent residents living on the north side of the river who daily traverse the Mt. Murphy Bridge. *Residents* have property rights that differentiate them from *stakeholders*. For clarification I handed Leslie a sheet containing the following description:

Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

Stakeholder Forum is an international organization working to advance sustainable development and promote democracy at a global level. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development through enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in intergovernmental processes.

The organization seeks to provide a *bridge* between those who have a stake in sustainable development, and the international forums where decisions are made in their name. To this end, we work with a diversity of stakeholders globally on international policy development and advocacy; stakeholder engagement and consultation; media and communications and capacity building – all with the ultimate objective of promoting progressive outcomes on sustainable development through an open and participatory approach.

The second SAC meeting held on May 28, 2014 was conducted by consultant Leslie Bonneau and the summary was prepared by Hans Larsen from CH2M Hill.

On behalf of residents, I request the following corrections be appropriately incorporated to the 5/28/14 summary prior to posting on the county website:

Historic, Cultural & Community Character

It was determined that “community” is *not* the Chamber of Commerce, American River Conservancy, State Parks, history, or the river. It pertains to the residents who live in Coloma.

Chris Payne suggested involvement with the Gold Discovery Park Association (GDPA). When I mentioned that I was the past GDPA President, the group was advised that adding another government agency would only muddy the waters. *Don't go there!* El Dorado County already has enough problems with out of control government and unaccountable NGOs.

In checking my audio, there was no mention of Leslie or the Team meeting with the Park to get GDPA input.

Access and Operations

It was brought to the attention of the group that the condition of Mt. Murphy Road must be considered in conjunction with the “bridge to no-where.” Ten pages of signatures dating back to 1988 were exhibited in which residents expressed their concerns about increased bridge traffic, poor road conditions, and lack of an **Evacuation Plan** in the event of another fire on Mt. Murphy. Not only is it irresponsible for the County to avoid this topic, it is a recipe for disaster.

Prior to the meeting commencing I approached Leslie to request the **Evacuation Plan** be made a priority on the agenda. She was adamant that the agenda would remain as scheduled. As a result less than 5 minutes was allotted for Adam Bane to address the important subject of public safety at the very end of the meeting. There was no time for dialog before the meeting was adjourned.

Access appears to be tailored to the Coloma Resort and the Park with little or no consideration given to the impacted residents on the north side of the river. This has been addressed to the BOS on several occasions but they have remained unresponsive to citizen concerns.

Construction

Construction noise of a new bridge isn't a concern for residents as much as the fact that the Coloma Resort is constantly in violation of their SUPs. Lack of compliance with county codes & noise ordinances in the Quiet Zone of the SFAR is the bigger issue that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

The majority of Mt. Murphy is a one-lane dirt road. The deterioration due to heavy equipment, poor road maintenance, and lack of a turnout on Mt. Murphy road will present problems for residents during the construction phase of the bridge. Since this CIP is the model for all other bridge projects in El Dorado County, egress and traffic control needs to be taken into consideration prior to commencing with this project.

Emergency evacuation during a wild fire needs to be addressed NOW rather than during & after construction. This subject has been deliberately avoided by the BOS and the Sheriff for YEARS!!!
(Move below under Safety)

Safety

(See above re: Emergency evacuation plan)

Environmental Resources

Concerns point back to the threat of Sustainable Development/Agenda 21.

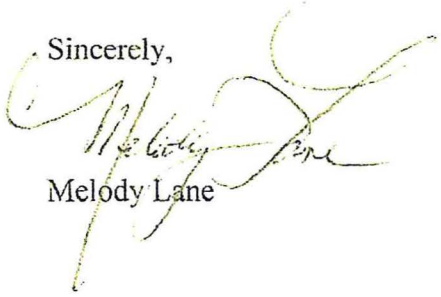
Right of Way

Primary right-of-way appears to be geared to serving the needs of CA State Parks and the owners of the Coloma Resort. For the record, it was mentioned that the Faieta's do NOT even live in the Coloma region. It was also pointed out that the majority of the SAC do not live on the north side of the river nor do they regularly have cause to use the bridge on a daily basis as do the residents.

###

Thanks in advance for your anticipated cooperation and timely response.

Sincerely,



Melody Lane

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16 JAN 22 PM 2:50

1/21/14

RECEIVED
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Elected Members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

The Coloma Resort was granted a conditional use permit by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors after it was purchased by my parents, Fred & Marielle Faieta in 1988. The Resort has been under the ownership and on-site management of our Family since the permit was granted. For over a quarter of a century we have developed and maintained a continuous high standard of condition, service, security, cleanliness, park improvement, community involvement and educational/recreational opportunities for our community.

I have been the Director of Development & Operations since 2004.

The Resort operates 12 months out of each year and employs 14 full time and 6 part time management team members.

Our Resort oversight is mainly under the jurisdiction of the State of California Housing & Community Development Agency. There are numerous State, County and Federal Agencies that participate in helping to keep health, public safety and compliance within regulation for all campgrounds, trailer parks, and RV parks in the State of California. As of this writing, (January 21, 2014) there are no known violations of permits, nor pending action by any of the regulators assigned to inspect and control the activities of the Coloma Resort.

We have no modular homes on the property. All of our Park Model Units are allowed by HCD regulations. In 2013, the Coloma Resort's Park Model, Bunkhouse and Tent Cabin rental accommodations contributed \$23,390 in El Dorado County "bed tax" alone. Coloma Resort is not only an asset to the community; it is also a monetary asset to El Dorado County.

We have close relationships with all but one seemingly misguided and questionably intended neighbor. We enforce our 10pm quiet hour and keep our neighbors advised when we donate our facility for fundraisers which benefit local organizations such as Coloma/ Lotus and El Dorado County Chambers, Placerville Rotary, local high schools, American Lung Association, Swift Water Rescue Courses, California Search and Rescue Expos, Etc.

We consider our doing business in El Dorado County a privilege not a right. It is my great concern that the unrestrained actions of Melody Lane and her "Compass 2 Truth" platform cause undue cost and harassment to the residents, businesses, The Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, governing bodies and protective agencies of El Dorado County. Regardless, Coloma Resort will continue our position of transparency and compliance.

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In conclusion, I would like to restate that there are no mobile homes and no know violations of our conditional use permit. Please call and make an appointment with me for a tour of our treasured facility and to review any and all conditions of approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniella Farieta", written over a light green circular highlight.

Daniella Farieta

Director of Development and Operations

Coloma Resort

530-621-2267 x304

Daniella@colomaresort.com

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