



Compass2Truth

Citizens for Constitutional Liberty

P.O. Box 598
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#18

December 8, 2019

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

LATE DISTRIBUTION

DATE 12/9/2019
BUS 12/10/2019

RE: 12/10/19 Consent Item #18 – \$5,000 Expenditure of Public Funds to Gold Trail Grange

Gold Trail Grange partners with various groups and non-profits such as the American River Conservancy, Gold Discovery Park Association, Coloma-Lotus Chamber of Commerce, the Coloma Lotus Advisory Committee, and other members of the river community collectively known for decades as the “River Mafia Mob.” Everyone who has lived in this region for any length of time knows that the Mob controls CLNews which serves as the primary method to communicate their extreme liberal and biased agenda. They have a long history of hostility, especially toward conservative residents who have been disenfranchised and made to feel unwelcome in the Coloma Lotus community. Consequently an increasing number of individuals have opted out of CLNews or participating in Grange activities.

The government process can be much more transparent in terms of giving the public advance notice of this \$5,000 expenditure which was apparently predetermined and rubber-stamped under Consent without providing the community an opportunity to weigh in on the wisdom of using public resources for such purposes. A transparent approach would also reduce the perception that such decisions are made to curry political favor.

Additionally, past fundraising solicitations by the Grange have raised many questions about ethics. Those who do business with the Grange (or want to do business with the agency) may feel pressured to contribute to maintain positive relations. These solicitations also can look like “pay to play” to the public and the media.

Then there is the question of what this \$5,000 expenditure of public funds may earn Supervisor Parlin in political influence? Obviously Ms. Parlin obtains a benevolent image, while the nonprofit Grange gets the money. But such an arrangement can also serve as a route around restrictions or campaign contributions, allowing the Grange and their partners to curry favor with politicians, frequently without proper disclosure.

It is evident the Grange is not authentically representative of our community. Therefore we strongly oppose this misappropriation of taxpayer funds to an unaccountable, non-profit organization whose membership continues to steadily decline.

Melody Lane

Founder – *Compass2Truth*