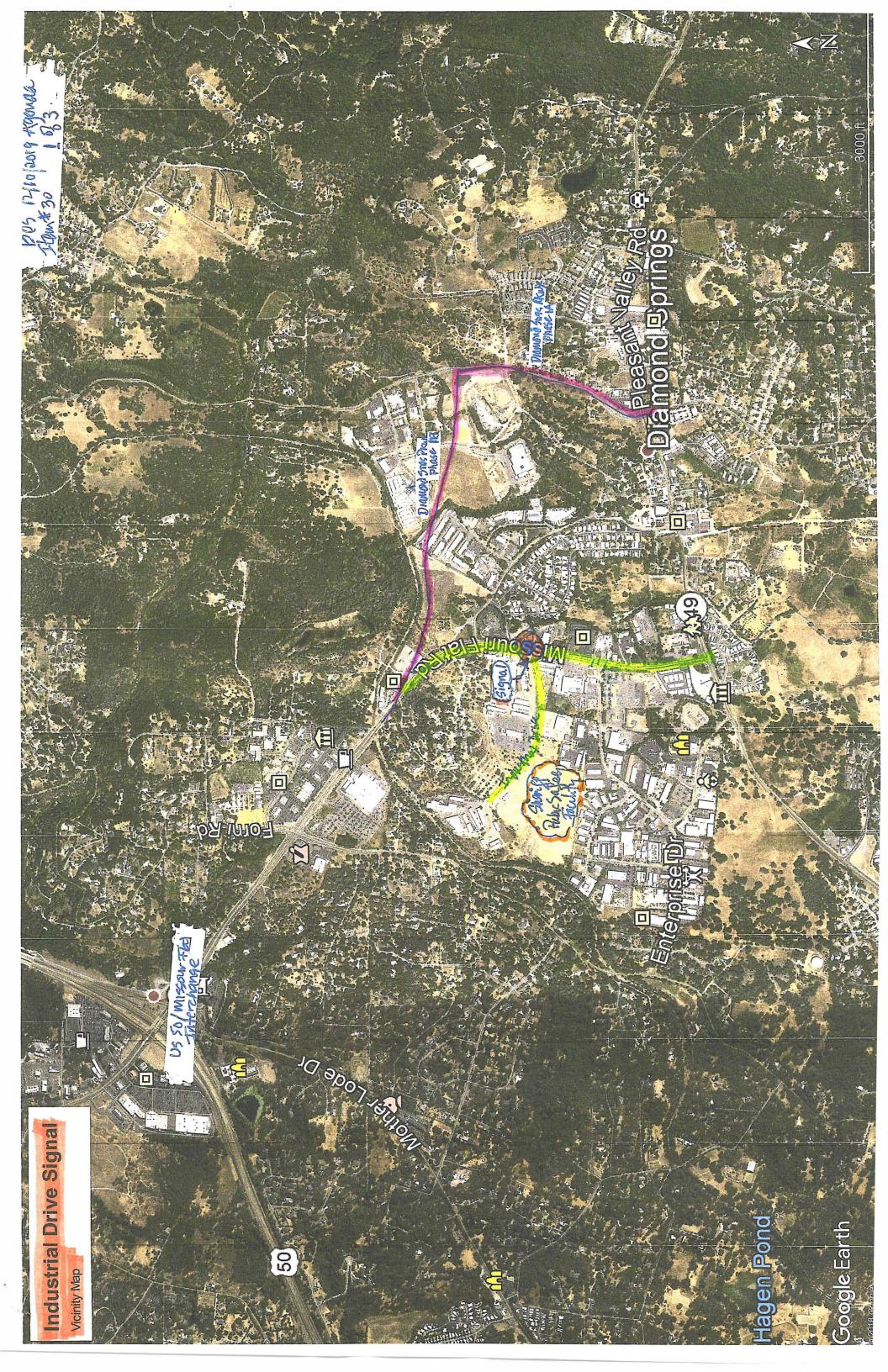


TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE SYSTEM EXAMPLE









M. Lant Consent Calendar Bos #1 Compass2Truth P.O. Box 598

Coloma, CA 95613

Citizens for Constitutional Liberty

December 8, 2019

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

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

CALIFORNIA BROWN ACT

PREAMBLE:

"The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people do not yield their sovereignty to the bodies that serve them. The people insist on remaining informed to retain control over the legislative bodies they have created."

CHAPTER V.

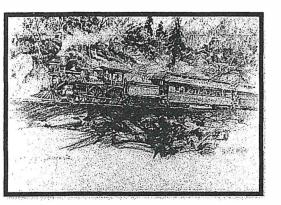
RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC

§54954.3 Public's right to testify at meetings. (c) The legislative body of a local agency shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body. Nothing in this subdivision shall confer any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law. Care must be given to avoid violating the speech rights of speakers by suppressing opinions relevant to the business of the body.

As such, members of the public have broad constitutional rights to comment on any subject relating to the business of the governmental body. Any attempt to restrict the content of such speech must be narrowly tailored to effectuate a compelling state interest. Specifically, the courts found that policies that prohibited members of the public from criticizing school district employees were unconstitutional. (Leventhal v. Vista Unified School Dist. (1997) 973 F. Supp. 951; Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School Dist. (1996) 936 F. Supp. 719.) These decisions found that prohibiting critical comments was a form of viewpoint discrimination and that such a prohibition promoted discussion artificially geared toward praising (and maintaining) the status quo, thereby foreclosing meaningful public dialog.

Where a member of the public raises an issue which has not yet come before the legislative body, the item may be briefly discussed but no action may be taken at that meeting. The purpose of the discussion is to permit a member of the public to raise an issue or problem with the legislative body or to permit the legislative body to provide information to the public, provide direction to its staff, or schedule the matter for a future meeting. (§ 54954.2(a).)





History of the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad

1859 Dec. 24- Meeting was held at the El Dorado County Courthouse to discuss building a railroad from Folsom to Placerville.

1860 June - William Lewis completed the first survey and map of the planned route.

1862 June – Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad was incorporated

1863 Feb. — Construction began

1864 - Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad issued \$750,000 in bonds secured by a mortgage of its future to Louis McLane and Danforth Barney, as trustees for the holders of the bonds.

1864 Aug. – Railroad completed to Latrobe

1865 June - Railroad completed to Shingle Springs

1866 March – California Legislature passed "An Act to Aid the Construction of the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad". Governor vetoed it.

1866 July – Federal Government passed "An Act Granting Aid in the Construction of a Railroad and Telegraph Line from the Town of Folsom to the Town of Placerville in the State of California."

1869 December – Railroad negotiated a \$200,000-dollar mortgage with Wells Fargo.

1871 July - Wells Fargo foreclosed on the mortgage.

1872 October – Holder of original 1864 bonds wanted full payment. Court orders El Dorado County to levy taxes to pay him.

1872 – City of Placerville owed \$40,000 on early railroad bonds. City government ceased to function.

1881 March – Louis McLane took possession of the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad. All railroad travel in El Dorado County stopped.

1882 July - Central Pacific paid McLane \$70,000 and retook possession of the railroad.

1887 – Construction started from Shingle Springs to Placerville.

1888 March Railroad completed to Placerville.