PC 11/12/09 #7.C

November 5, 2009

Planning Services
El Dorado County Development Services Department
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Olde Coloma Theatre, S07-0019

Dear Members of the Commission,

CTAMMEDERARIMENT OF THE COUNTY OF THE COUNTY

Four and one half (4 ½) years and counting, yes 4 ½ years of hearings, delays, new commissioners and the fourth planner in as many years to be assigned to this project, mounds and mounds of paper. Know, you have been provided the exact information page for page that, 2 ½ years ago was determined, by the commission to be inadequate, incomplete and inaccurate. Site plans prepared by unlicensed individual in violation of California Business and Professionals Code 5536. Yet you are being asked to approve this CUP without the knowledge that the site can support any conditions or that any requirement will or can be met in the time frame suggested or for that matter if at all.

You are further being asked to certify that this business is exempt from CEQA requirements as an existing business per CEQA 15323. This is in direct conflict with that previously determined. County council Paula Frantz provided clarification for commissioners during the August 24, 2006 planning commission hearing stating that the theatre is an "illegal, non-conforming use". In addition Ms. Frantz stated that benefiting from an illegal use is not permitted. To certify this business clearly would be to allow them to benefit from the illegal act, that being in business without required permits or approval. During the March 8, 2007 planning commission meeting county council Paula Frantz in response to questions by the commission stated "When you (planning commission) deal with a special use permit you must look at the entire site and everything connected to the use. You can not allow them (theatre) to be a health and safety issue". Ms. Frantz was very adamant that the Commission could not consider only parking. It is clear that the Commission must review this application without prejudice to avoid creating precedence.

This business has operated and methodically expanded for sometime without the required permits or County approvals. The building housing the theatre does not comply with fire resistive standards and per El Dorado County Fire Marshal requires a fire suppression system. Has anyone determined what impacts on the parking or where the required water storage tank is to be placed? Building setbacks are such that rated walls and opening protection may be required. The property line to the west is much less than 12-feet as shown on their site plan prepared by the unlicensed draftsperson. The auditorium according to the applicant contains 80 fixed seats and are asking to increase that to 149. Where are the patrons, the children being seated, in the exit isles? Auditorium right side exits widths are less than minimum required, (California Building Code 1008.1.1). In addition there are missing landings at exterior doors (California Building Code 1008.1.4).

This facility is not accessible to the disabled, not at all (California Building Code 11B). Site access is non-compliant, mud or graveled surfaces for parking and used as the path of travel, non conforming building entry and lack of required exits from the theatre and else ware

They have enlarging their parking facilities without compliance to county parking ordinance. County Planning is recommending CUP approval with only 15 on site spaces which does not support the increase in the number of patrons, approval without any findings or precedence. It is my understanding that the theatre, because of their inability to provide any on-site compliant parking for its increase in use has proposed to use Marshal State Park as a staging area using smaller buses to transport hundreds of elementary children and night time patrons to and from the theatre or walk patrons along State Highway 153 or Cold Springs Road to the theatre. Furthermore, with the possibility of Marshal Park closing due to State budget constraints it would be irresponsible for the Commission to consider a parking plan that included parking within the State park. Closer scrutiny of this proposal may reveal that it will only acerbate the non-conformity. It does nothing to provide or make neither the theatre nor the State Parks sites accessible for the disabled. The bus proposed for use by the theatre to transport patrons is not even fitted with a wheel chair lift making it non-accessible for the disabled. I have discussed with Scott Nakaji Gold Fields District Superintendent disabled access at all staging areas, paths-of travel and the theatre. His response is that it shall be the responsibility of the theatre to provide any and all compliant access for those with special needs.

Four and one half (4 ½) years, this applicant has shown no willingness to implement any improvements that would bring their business into conformance, none, even though they were in receipt of a list of condition. No, it is clearly evident that their intentions are to delay, delay, delay while not reinvesting in their business.

Keep in mind that many of the violations noted above are fire/life safety issues and are required by code/law while a building is occupied. If you approve this CUP without requiring immediate implementations of safety features and allow occupancy then you are placing the **neighborhood and theatre patrons including many children** in harm's way. Let's get the theatre to demonstrate good faith by making the building safe and accessible without delay.

History has shown that government entities that have ignored complaints, circumvented or failed to impose fire/life safety or access regulations where they, the regulatory body have an obligation to do so will eventually be required to make amends, possibly at extreme monetary cost and embarrassment to the government entity.

The purpose of the Use Permit process is to ensure compliance with County and State regulations for the health, safety and benefit of the <u>public</u>.

Sincerely,

Jerry Griffin 530 Cold Springs Rd.

CC: Office of the Attorney General, Access Compliance
Scott Nakaji, Gold Fields District Superintendent
Paula Frantz, County Counsel El Dorado County
Roger Trout, Director Development Services Department
Larry Lohman, Deputy Director/Building Official
Jo Ann Brillisour, Clerk of the Planning Commission,
Richard Skaff, Designing Accessible Communities
Board of Professional Engineers

Editor in Chief Sacramento Bee Lee Wimers, San Jose Mercury News



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

BILL LOCKYER ATTORNEY GENERAL April 29, 2002

Dear Local Building Official:

Re: Enforcement of California Disabled Access Laws and Regulations

As chief law officer of the State of California, I have a strong interest in seeing that disabled access laws and regulations are uniformly and adequately enforced. (Cal. Const., art. V, § 13.) Local building departments are the first line of enforcement authority for these laws and regulations. (Gov. Code, § 4453, subd. (b); Health & Saf. Code, § 19958.) Regrettably, I have received a number of complaints that allege certain local jurisdictions are failing to take all actions necessary to ensure compliance with these laws and regulations. (Gov. Code, § 4450 et seq; Health & Saf. Code, § 19955 et seq.; and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, part 2.¹) For this reason, I urge you to evaluate your enforcement policies and practices in this area.

While local building officials are the primary enforcers of California access laws and regulations, I have been vested with the authority to investigate complaints and bring legal actions to remedy the violation of these laws and regulations. (Gov. Code, § 4558; Health & Saf. Code, § 19958.5.) This includes investigating allegations that a local building department is not adequately enforcing state access laws and regulations, and filing civil actions to remedy such problems when they are identified.

Consistent with the Legislature's mandate that local building departments be the primary enforcers of state access laws and regulations, I require that a complainant first lodge with the appropriate local building department an access complaint which alleges that a particular facility or



¹ Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations is published separately as the California Building Code and is available through the Building Standards Commission at << http://www.bsc.ca.gov>. Further information on California's access laws and regulations is available in the *State of California Access Compliance Reference Manual*, which may be obtained from the Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect. Its web site is << http://www.dsa.ca.gov>.

Local Building Officials April 29, 2002 Page 2

building is being maintained in violation of state disabled access regulations. I expect every local building department to have a complaint procedure and to investigate these disabled access complaints promptly.

As a general rule, my office will only consider a request to review the action of a local building department on an access complaint to determine whether the agency has abused its discretion if: a) the agency has had a reasonable opportunity to resolve the complaint; and b) has either reached a final resolution or has failed to do so within a reasonable period of time. If we find such an abuse of discretion, we ask the local building department to reconsider its decision, and, if it fails to do so, I am prepared to take legal action to cure that abuse of discretion.

Another area for potential legal action by my office concerns local building departments' responsibilities under Government Code section 4452. That statute requires commencement of action to correct deviations from state disabled access regulations within 90 days of confirmation of the existence of such deviations.

I believe that a reasonable construction of this 90-day requirement is that a final resolution be reached with respect to the confirmed violations within 90 days of confirmation of the violations. A final resolution means that the violations have been corrected, a binding agreement has been reached with the owner to complete any construction necessary to correct the violations within a reasonable time, or the local building department has instituted legal action to compel the owner to correct the violations.²

Again, with respect to any agreement reached between a property owner and a local building department, this office will, upon request, review any such agreement for an abuse of discretion and will take legal action, if necessary, to correct any such abuse of discretion.

Through this office's disabled access enforcement work, we have found that deviations from disabled access requirements are often the result of a lack of adequate resources to carefully check plans, inadequate training of personnel and adherence to a philosophy that relaxes enforcement of state disabled access standards. I encourage you to evaluate your enforcement programs to determine whether these are areas that need to be addressed.

² This construction takes into account that not all construction projects that might be necessary to correct certain disabled access regulations can, in reality, be completed (and the access violations corrected) within 90 days of confirmation.

Local Building Officials April 29, 2002 Page 3

In order to ensure that I have reached the person in your jurisdiction with whom the governing body has placed the responsibility for enforcing state access laws and regulations, I request that you contact Special Assistant Attorney General Alberto L. González of my staff and confirm that you are the correct person or, if not, provide him with the name of that person. Mr. González may be reached at (916) 324-5369, or at his e-mail address alberto.gonzalez@doj.ca.gov.

California was a pioneer in requiring that publicly-funded buildings and facilities and privately funded public accommodations be accessible to persons with disabilities. Our state laws predate the federal Americans With Disabilities Act by over 20 years. Please join me in a renewed commitment to strong and vigorous enforcement of state disabled access laws and regulations.

Attorney General

10-0538.L.6

Le Dorado County Glanning Commission (Distributed at maching)

El Dorado County, Cal. I addressed To: Tobuta arkur 5485 Rainer DV Sarden Valley, Co.95633 Degarding! Closure of Coloma Theater To whom it may concur. elt has just come so my attention of your efforts to close the Colone Theater. This would be a great injustice to our area, and to the tourists that visit our area. The Coloma Theater is not only a historic Gruch to our past but a great educational value to our children. Elu This day and age of electronics, our children are relaying on the electronics for education to extertainment. The Coloma Theater experience allows them to interact with The Characters an stage while taking part

PC 1/14/10

#7.b

in a piece of history. Not only does the experience douch our local children bent also The children of our visitors from everywhere. ell is part of the ambiance of coming to Colonia and our Sold Country area. Il Can not speak to how many visitors may not come to Coloma of the Theater was closed but once here and exposed to This additional attraction, our guests are delighted. Our County is looking for every lit of revenue that is available to them in These times. Why cut off this piece of it? Elt helps bring in visitors that spend money Relping our businesses to be open and therefore open businesses are able to pay takes thus livinging more revenue for our County. De aurare that I have no Connections To the Coloma Theater except as a patron. I have been a resident and tox payer of El Worado County since 1969. El have taken my family, friends, shildren and grandchildren To the Theater. I expect to take the rest of Them as soon as they become old enough to set in the front row to his a boo,

interact with the players, and throw foil balls on stage. This is an experience That The older Gof my 8 grandchildren still talk of today and talk of taking their Children some day. We will soon be four generations of visiting the Coloma Theater. Elease do not remove this little Part of our wonderful Gold area History." Too much of our history is already fading away. We need to keep the history of this area alive in every way. A realize that nearby neighbors Object to the Theater noise. My experience in attending the glays are that they are Over and the area cleared before 10:30pm. I believe this is the noise deadline everywhere. Dut if this is still too late, maybe to Compromise, the plays could start the. earlier. It guess the real question here is why would you purchase property in on area where you know this play house as well as other tourists activities exsists The Theater has been in exsistence and open to the public since the 1970's (not do mention gracticing in the 1850's or so). Uf.

we give into this reasoning, then whats to be a noise factor helt? The bed of breakful. The stores, the rapting companier, the Camping parks, the wineries, the restraints? This little town is a townist vacation spot with many, many attractions and has been for many, many many years.

Again, it would be a great injustice to our area, to many, many visitors and for us locals of this theater due to a few complaintants that are new of our area, was closed.

Plane, Please, Please reuncider your actions and do not allow this closure to happen.

Hourta C. Perkus

(Distributed at PC 1/14/10 meeting) #7.6

P O Box 830 Boonville CA 95415 January 8,2010

JAN 11 Ph 11 60 PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission Board of Supervisors El Dorado County 2850 Fairlane Court, Building C Placerville CA 95667

Dear Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

Our fourth grade classes from Mendocino County have been visiting Coloma for the past six years as a culmination of our California History studies. It is an extremely popular and interesting trip. For the past two years, we have come to the Olde Coloma Theatre to watch and act in a gold rush play. This has become the new favorite part of our trip. Maria Williams and her staff do a remarkable job bringing the gold rush story alive and allowing the students to participate in the play. For many students, this is their first experience on a stage. I am sure that the theater plays an integral part in the community also. Please do not cause the Olde Coloma Theatre to close its doors. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade of Anderson Valley Elementary School Victin Book Shuley Dompkin MIGUEL RONGE!

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Jason R Hade/PV/EDC 01/11/2010 09:33 AM

To "Gary Baldock" <BaldockG@eldoradocountyfire.com>

cc Pierre Rivas/PV/EDC@TCP, Charlene M Tim/PV/EDC@TCP, Carol Fallon <carollee13@sbcglobal.net>

bcc

Subject Fw: Apparent Access Violations/El Dorado County Special

Use Permit - Olde Coloma Theater

Gary,

Please forward this to Bruce Lacher, as requested below, because I don't have his email address.

Thanks.

Jason R. Hade, AICP Senior Planner Planning Services El Dorado County Development Services Department 2850 Fairlane Court Placerville, CA 95667

530.621.5874 (phone) 530.642.0508 (fax) jason.hade@edcgov.us

----- Forwarded by Jason R Hade/PV/EDC on 01/11/2010 09:25 AM -----



"Richard Skaff" <richardskaff@designingacce ssiblecommunities.org>

01/10/2010 06:31 PM

To <roger.trout@edcgov.us>

Subject Apparent Access Violations/El Dorado County Special Use Permit - Olde Coloma Theater



January 10, 2010

Mr. Roger Trout, Director County of El Dorado Development Services 2850 Fairlane Court, Building "C" Placerville, CA 95667

Mr. Trout,

I am writing to you to bring to your attention the concerns I have heard from Coloma residents regarding the possible approval of a Special Use Permit for the Olde Coloma Theater. The issues I'm writing to you about today relate to state and federal physical accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities that apparently haven't been incorporated into the Theatre site or building structure as required. Please note, I have "cc'd" this email to the County Planning Commissioners who will be hearing the Special Use Permit request on January 14th at their County of El Dorado Planning Commission meeting. I would appreciate your assistance in assuring that Ms. Gayle Erb-Hamlin, the County Chief Administrative Officer, and the El Dorado County Fire Protection District Fire Chief, Bruce Lacher, receive a copy of this email.

Based on my investigation and the information I have reviewed, it appears that the Olde Coloma Theater was brought to its present site in 1975. As background, at that time, the State of California was using the American National Standard ANSI A117 1961 that it had adopted in 1972 as the state's interim accessibility design standard. In 1959, the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped and the National Society for Crippled Children co-sponsored the development of ANSI A117.1, the first national standard for accessibility. ANSI A117.1 was first published in 1961 and reaffirmed without changes in 1971. In 1982, the State of California adopted a newly developed access code section of the California Building Code, called "Title 24", which replaced the 1961ANSI A117.1. There have been numerous updates and changes made to the original 1982 version of California's access codes over the years. In 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was adopted by Congress and signed into law by the President. For the past few years, the State Architect's Office has been working to incorporate those sections of the Act's Guidelines that are more restrictive than Title 24 into the Code. The ADA brought a number of additional and in some cases more restrictive physical access requirements to public entities like the County of El

Dorado and its buildings and facilities as well as to private businesses open to the public like the Olde Coloma Theatre.

Based on the input I have received from residents of Coloma, it appears that when the Theatre was first moved to its present location, and later when remodeling apparently took place within the theater, work that would have triggered access modifications, the County did not assure that the state and federal access code/regulatory requirements were incorporated into the Theatre, as required. Also, the owners of the Theatre apparently failed to take the responsibility to incorporate the required accessibility features into their facility. This opinion is based on the extensive input I've received about the facility and its past history and present condition. For your information, I've attached a 2002 letter from then Attorney General Bill Lockyer, written to local building officials, reminding them of their responsibility to enforce the California Building Code accessibility requirements as well as enforcement of California Government Code and Health and Safety Code, including the mandate that correction of access violations must be made within 90 days of their confirmation as code violations

I am writing to ask that prior to your County Planning Commission considering any further use permits for the Olde Coloma Theatre at its January 14th meeting, that the County first determine whether the Theatre is in full compliance with all required state and federal access codes and regulations (parking, paths-of-travel including all fire code related emergency egress and other fire-related requirements, bathrooms, access to stage, etc.) and if it isn't, require that it be brought into compliance immediately. This facility must no longer be allowed to continue operating with inadequate or non-existent accessibility for persons with disabilities, in violation of their civil rights and the state and federal regulatory requirements.

I look forward to your timely response.

Thank you.

Richard Skaff

Richard Skaff, Executive Director

Designing Accessible Communities

Richard Skaff, Executive Director Designing Accessible Communities P.O. Box 2579 Mill Valley, CA 94942

Voice/fax: 415-388-7206

Email: richardskaff@designingaccessiblecommunities.org

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(Distributed at PC moeting)

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PC 1/14/10 # 7.6

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

Statement of support for

Olde Coloma Theatre

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Statement of support for

Olde Coloma Theatre

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COUNTY OF EL DORADO

Statement of support for

Olde Coloma Theatre

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COUNTY OF EL DORADO

Statement of support for

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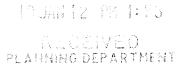
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COUNTY OF EL DORADO

Statement of support for Olde Coloma Theatre



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PC 1/14/10 #7.6.

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

(provided at meeting by Roberta Long)

Statement of support for Olde Coloma Theatre

Since the former El Dorado Forum awarded the **Mie Colona Thestre** its Distinguished Service Award for Arts and Culture, and since the members and friends of the El Dorado Forum are aware of the benefits of the **Mie Colona Thestre** to El Dorado County's history and tourism, we encourage the El Dorado County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to do all in their respective powers to retain the **Mie Colona Thestre** as a viable source of historical entertainment and education.

powers to retain the Olde Colona Theatre as	a viable source of historical entertainment and education.
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Statement of support for Olde Coloma Theatre

Since the former El Dorado Forum awarded the Olde Colona Theatre its Distinguished Service Award for Arts and Culture, and since the members and friends of the El Dorado Forum are aware of the benefits of the Olde Colona Theatre to El Dorado County's history and tourism, we encourage the El Dorado County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to do all in their respective powers to retain the Olde Colona Theatre as a viable source of historical entertainment and education.

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BOB EDWARD(Boledware
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Address	July marges
2520 Mormon Island	Dr. EDH 916-505-6964

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Statement of support for Olde Coloma Theatre

Since the former El Dorado Forum awarded the **Clin** Colona Theatre its Distinguished Service Award for Arts and Culture, and since the members and friends of the El Dorado Forum are aware of the benefits of the **Clin** Colona Theatre to El Dorado County's history and tourism, we encourage the El Dorado County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to do all in their respective powers to retain the **Clin** Colona Theatre as a viable source of historical entertainment and education.

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COUNTY OF EL DORADO

Statement of support for Olde Coloma Theatre

Since the former El Dorado Forum awarded the **Olio Colona Theatre** its Distinguished Service Award for Arts and Culture, and since the members and friends of the El Dorado Forum are aware of the benefits of the **Olio Colona Theatre** to El Dorado County's history and tourism, we encourage the El Dorado County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to do all in their respective powers to retain the **Olio Colona Theatre** as a viable source of historical entertainment and education.

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April 20, 2010

Use Permit S07-0019

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REGEIVED
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Dear Commission Members;

The Olde Coloma Theatre applicant has again submitted documents demonstrating that compliance with County standards is **not** possible on this site.

Occupancy of 149 per show, *potentially* five to eight shows 700+ occupants per day based upon proposed application. How many vehicles per day?

21 parking spaces proposed, 50 spaces required per County Code. Where are they going to park?

County standards (17.18.030(B) 3) require twelve feet wide one-way onsite vehicle maneuvering isles. According to plan only 10 feet is proposed, considerably shy of requirements. Regulations allow for no exceptions in this requirement.

Accessibility is required by State and Federal. Where is accessible parking, path of travel, accessible building entry?

Occupancy 149, 80 fixed seats provided. Where are they going to sit?

Noncompliant exit system, exit door widths less than minimum required, missing landings at exit doors. Compliance required by State Code during to **occupy** a building.

Parking plan requires additional tree removal, trees in addition to those previously removed during the illegal excavation, hauling and grading by Theatre staff, trees in excess of that permitted by County Ordinance.

August 24, 2006, March 8, 2007, dates that member of the commission have forgotten or unaware of their significance to this application. County Council Paula Frantz provided clarification for commissioners during the August 24, 2006 planning commission hearing stating that the theatre was an "illegal, non-conforming use". In addition Ms. Frantz stated that benefiting from an illegal use is not permitted. During the March 8, 2007 planning commission meeting county council stated "When you (planning commission) deal with a special use permit you must look at the entire site and everything connected to the use. You cannot allow them (theatre) to be a health and safety issue". Ms. Frantz was very adamant that the Commission could not consider only parking or past theatre history. It was clear that the Commission must review this application without prejudice to avoid creating precedence.

Let's not forget this is an <u>expansion</u> of a non-conforming use. An illegally operating business cited by the County of El Dorado not the neighbors for committing an illegal act, excavating, hauling and grading without first having obtained approval from the Planning Commission. It was the County of El Dorado not the neighbors through their own initiative determined that the Olde Coloma Theatre had been operating without benefit of permits from the County. Even so the commission has instructed Planning Staff to draft conditions of approval based upon this latest submission. Conditions that have entirely eliminated accessibility access to, around and

within this public facility. Should we assume that the County of El Dorado does not promote access for the disabled when they have every opportunity to do so?

Sincerely,

Jerry Griffin 530 Cold Springs

WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO PARK?

"YOU CANNOT ALLOW THEM (THEATRE) TO BE A HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE".

"THOSE LIVING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS NEXT TO A WINERY (THEATRE?) WOULD BE BOMBARDED WITH NOISE AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS". Ron Briggs, September 2007



