

December 22, 2014

To: LAFCO COMMISSION
Chair Steve Morgan and to All Commissioners

This letter is in regards to the meeting I attended on December 18, 2014. I expect that this correspondence be included in the upcoming agenda packets and be ON the agenda and available to all Commissioners..

I was both pleased.....and appalled at the meeting.

Pleased at the accomplishments of the Commission in finally getting the work done that was, by law, required to have been done in 2008. The Executive Officer, Jan Lopez, and staff were presented with **a monumental backlog of reports to accomplish** and they have done a very good job in getting it done in such a short time. This is a huge amount of work that should have been done over the years.....and which was not. Had there not been a lawsuit and a change in personnel, I feel quite sure that today, you as a Commission, would still be in the same sad and illegal condition. Therefore I commend the Commissioners and Staff for making this progress and recognize the considerable time and effort that has been expended.

However, I was appalled at the unprofessional, rude, petty and vindictive nature of Commissioner Baugh, towards Jan Lopez, your Executive Officer. He seemed to have a vendetta going on and wanted to find fault with minor issues in the reports that were being considered. This petty nitpicking and delaying of decisions is especially ironic, considering that Commissioner Baugh sat silently by while there was decade of reports and work NOT being done at all.

I have been on public boards and found his behavior not only appalling but embarrassing. If you have issues with staff performance, you should consider those in a closed session. To berate staff in public in a forum where they have no ability to respond is not only unprofessional....it is the behavior of a bully. It not only makes one person, Mr. Baugh, look bad, it reflects poorly on the entire Commission.

I was not the only person to remark on this behavior. Other representatives from some of the affected fire districts who were at the meeting also felt that the actions of Commissioner Baugh were completely out of line and discussed this after the meeting.

In addition. There seemed to be several violations of the Brown Act by Commissioner Baugh at this meeting. Specifically the reading into the minutes of a letter that was not on the agenda and to which the rest of the Commission was not privy. A letter to which the public also had no access.

I have no idea what personal issues Commissioners may have with either staff or amongst themselves. That is irrelevant. The fact that Shasta LAFCO is finally doing the work that it is required to do, and is doing it in a professional manner, should not be derailed by pettiness, infighting and bullying behavior.

Now that the bulk of the baseline studies (that should have been completed years ago) are finally done, the work load of not only Staff but the Commissioners will be at a more normal level going forward. To continue to make progress and to continue to be an effective positive organization, I would highly recommend that the competent staff that you have NOW, be allowed to continue to do their jobs without being humiliated and berated in public meetings.

Sincerely

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