

Bert Stead
13598 Jeep Trail
Redding, CA 96003
December 9, 2014

Jan Lopez, Executive Officer
Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission
2516 Goodwater Avenue, Suite A
Redding, CA 96002

Dear Ms. Lopez:

The County Resolution enacting CAB's on 3 Nov 1981 opens with "Whereas, it is the intent of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Shasta to assure the maximum participation in the decision making process by those affected by the Boards decisions; and" ... (Italic and underline is mine)

This was a strong motivating factor in my decision to run for and attain a position on the CSA6 board in the first place. After serving, and discovering that those were words only, and had no meaning, I did not run a second time.

I doubt the county will be able to cite any decision in which the CAB Board members played a role, prior to the Elk Trail Water Project.

I just wanted to put this into the MSR record as my perception of the County's lack of a cooperative spirit.

The County Discouraged the CAB from asking Congressman Herger for help in locating additional water for the Elk Trail and Jones Valley Area. Herger was sent a letter from the County saying that we faced much bigger problems than just locating water. Congressman Herger ceased any further assistance to our project. About the same time, the CAB was discouraged by the county, to give the project any further support. The CAB ignored the County's discouragement and passed a unanimous resolution asking the Board of Supervisors to support and proceed with the Elk Trail Project. The CAB was once again reminded they had no authority, and were only an advisory body. The ensuing reluctance on the part of the county, and especially the department of Public Works, toward the Elk Trail Project, made it necessary for us to locate and obtain our own water and our own funding sources...which we did.

While serving on the CAB the first time, I recall an ongoing encouragement for the County to locate the existing systems continuing and expensive water losses. This was a topic for the entire two years of my board tenancy, and the County's patented answer was that it was cheaper to live with the water losses, than to attempt location and repairs of said losses.



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We have never been able to obtain from the county an understandable explanation of reported repairs, what county employee did, where they did it, and some kind of detail on the more substantial charges for these services. We were however offered the opportunity to accept CAB budget charges for the cost of providing this information.

Interestingly, after the CAB began asking the strong questions of the County, a charge by the County for staff to attend CAB meetings was initiated, a charge that had not been levied before. At that time the County also began pressing for quarterly meetings of the CAB. It was the opinion of the CAB members that with the lack of accomplishment through the County with monthly meetings, we would never accomplish anything with quarterly meetings! We never even considered going to quarterly meetings for this reason.

Many Board members, myself being one of them, failed to run again due to the County repeatedly reminding us that our position carried no weight and had no strength (value) in swaying County opinions or actions. I personally felt I could have more results as a community member than I had as a board member. As a result the Board membership dwindled to 5 for several years. They functioned with a quorum being a simple majority of three and carried on meetings functioning and making necessary motions based on that number. One of the five, who was placed/appointed by the Board of Supervisors to the CAB board, was a school teacher and was assured after asking, if he could sit on the board even though he worked full time and would not be able to attend meetings. He was told that it would not be a problem. He never attended a single meeting, and that meant that a quorum could not be reached with the absence of even one more member. It was at this time that I volunteered before the board, to temporarily fill his vacancy after the CAB voted unanimously to remove that member from the CAB seat. The remaining CAB members unanimously voted to accept me into that position until the following election. In the past, vacancies such as this were filled by the Board of Supervisors on the consent agenda. In my case it was placed on the regular agenda, where the board decided to run a special, noticed intent to accept nominations from any interested party, for the purpose of filling the unexpired term. Only one person stepped up to fill the seat, and that person was me. I sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors, stating I looked forward to creating an atmosphere of cooperation between the CAB and the county. Again this came up again on the regular agenda where Mr. Moty said he did agree with the need for cooperation, but did not feel that I was that person. My appointment was rejected by a 3 to 2 vote, leaving now, only 4 board members on the CAB. At this time, the County began insisting that 4 members must be present on what was long ago a 7 member board, and that has coincidentally crippled the CAB for doing any business, since one of its long standing members is a World War 2 Veteran and having some difficulties with attendance.

It is my opinion that Les Baugh, Leonard Moty and David Kehoe all voted against me because I was one of the original Elk Trail Water Project members, that was not afraid to ask the hard questions and pursue answers. Going back to the opening paragraph of this letter, it is my opinion that the County's definition of the cooperation identified in their

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resolution to “assure the maximum participation in the decision making process by those affected by the Boards decisions” only stands true if no one questions or challenges them.

Sincerely,

Bert Stead