

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

From: Renee ONeill <chasingstar2701@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 3:03 PM
To: sbcob; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve; Williams, Das; Adam, Peter
Cc: Savrnoch, John; Miyasato, Mona; Melekian, Barney; Villalobos, David; Laura Bridley; John Parke; Dan Blough; Larry Ferini; Michael Cooney
Subject: Re Tuesday's decision on Appeal and Hemp
Attachments: Peter Adam's Hearfelt Speech, 06-09-20 Budget Prep V2.pdf

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Dear Supervisors,

First, I want to take this opportunity to recognize and compliment several, outstanding County employees:

Supervising P&D Planner, Kathryn Lehr - Yesterday morning, I emailed Kathryn and asked her number of questions and requested specific information. She responded and answered all my questions, within a few hours. Thank You Kathryn! I really appreciate your efforts.

Master of Administration, David Villalobos - for always responding to my questions, even when they don't necessarily pertain to P&D. Thank you for your continued patience and consideration. You ROCK, David!

Assistant CEO, Barney Melekian - Thank you for your consistent support of my/our efforts. Once again, I apologize for not checking my Spam mail when you answered my questions re Cannabis Tax Revenue. I understand that individual tax data is not Public.

I hope to receive an answer from your or County Council, Mike Ghizzoni, re confirmation of notifying State (CDFR) re phase-out and prohibition in the EDRNs.

On another note:

I am disappointed that the Board denied the SBCRC Appeal for Castlerock Family Farms II. I simply cannot understand the Board's position on approving projects that continue to increase countywide conflicts re concentration of large cannabis projects in inappropriate areas, conflicts with odor, impact on tourism, etc. Why are you allowing Cannabis Industry to undermine and threaten traditional, well-established, reputable and revenue-producing AG Industry? This makes no sense to the majority of your constituents! It also makes no sense to continue over-ruling the PC's decisions to deny projects and/or approving more cannabis projects in overburdened regions like Carpinteria or other, heavily and negatively impacted areas.

I agree with Supervisor Peter Adam, the existing PEIR is inadequate, *to say the least*. We have learned a great deal since 2017 and I strongly recommend that you review and reconsider adopting Staff's initial "PRUDENT" recommendations that would reduce Significant, Adverse, Class-I Impacts. Please Amend the PEIR, ASAP.

Re Hemp: I received P&D's Projection Report and the Board Agenda. Once again, there are no meetings scheduled, in either department, that address Hemp Regulations and/or Prohibitions. I want to know what, if anything, the Board plans to do about this matter?

Re 3% Pay Increase: I am disheartened that the Board chose to give themselves another pay raise, regardless of our County's current financial crisis.

As Peter Adam so aptly stated in his farewell speech, at the June Budget hearing:
"Our government has asked our citizens to endure horrific and unprecedented hardships... We all understand, intellectually, that people are hurting. But we're not really **acting** as if we understand that. **A show of solidarity by enduring some privations of our own, would be a sign of good faith and empathy with county residents.** Surely, there must be some "non-essential" employees that the county could spare instead of **adding** almost 50 FTE's and increasing our Salaries and Benefits by 2.6%. That, to me, is tone deaf. Are we incapable of doing anything but relentlessly expanding government? **Should we let them eat cake?** If we decline to control ourselves the slightest amount, even under these circumstances, then what **will-it-take** to induce us to do so? Frankly, I'm afraid for the future."

He also state, "During the last 7 budget cycles, we've gone from \$292M to \$463 million. These are very large numbers. They should be shocking to **everyone!** It is foolish and naïve to expect the state and federal governments to save us from our fiscal **mismanagement**. If that ever was a possibility, I doubt any higher power is coming to solve our problems now. It is clear to me that we're going to have to make a plan and have the discipline to execute it. This problem is **of our own creation. We, ourselves, must FIX it.**"

(Peter's speech, is attached). **Thank You Peter! Your level-headed experience will be sorely missed by many!!!**

1. Please reply to my request re PEIR. Are you going to amend portions of this or not?
2. Please respond to my questions re Hemp. Are you going to Ban it or Regulate it?
3. Please send me copy of letter to State, CDFR(?) re Notifying State of Ban in EDRNs. I've been waiting for over a month for County's response. Thank you.

Respectfully Yours,

Renée O'Neill

(805) 934-9632