

FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

KILLS TRANSPARENCY

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency has eliminated any chance of transparency by voting to eliminate the Citizens Assessment District Advisory Committee at its August 9 meeting. This follows a number of previous attempts to shut down, control or eliminate the advisory committee including:

- Removing two CADAC members using false accusations. These were two members who were active on the committee and asked important questions regarding expenditures.
- After not attending the required number of meetings, in spring of 2016 (8 to be exact) Jon Munger was brought in to “volunteer” to be chairperson. He was falsely elected at an improperly noticed meeting in June 2016. Jon has major conflicts of interest. He is the son of Larry Munger who is chairman of the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency Board and a Sutter County Supervisor. Jon is also employed by Al Montna who is a long-time member of the Levee District 1 Board. Levee District 1 has two members on the SBFCA Board. Once installed as president, Jon wanted to move the meetings to every six months, certainly a shut-down tactic.
- Stacking the CADAC committee with people who are loyal to agencies on the SBFCA Board, i.e. Michael Morris who has since been appointed to the SBFCA Board.

- **Outreach Coordinator Kim Floyd unilaterally moving the CADAC meetings from Wednesday to Monday despite information from several committee members that they would not be able to attend on Mondays.**

SBFCA management claims the move was because of costs and because members were not attending the meetings. They are now proposing “brown bag luncheon” meetings where they can feed the public the information they want distributed which, of course, will cut down on questions and concerns. This would remove any continuity of information sharing.

And, of course, SBFCA staff will have to be at those meetings and there could be rent involved for Boyd Hall. So where is the big savings? With the extremely high salaries by SBFCA officials and contractors, funding an advisory group is a small amount to ensure transparency for the property owners and taxpayers paying the bill.

The high costs attributable to CADAC in the 2015-16 year were because of attorney costs to respond to a public records request when a committee member was not given requested information, not the routine costs for the Executive Director or the Executive Engineer and the Public Outreach Coordinator to attend who are the only people who are paid. It can be expected that public records requests will increase with the demise of CADAC and costs will increase.

And, by the way, to save money CADAC was responsible early on for eliminating lunches provided by SBFCA for the committee.

As far as attendance, it was Chairman Jon Munger who failed to show at a number of the meetings, thus sending the message to committee members that CADAC was low on his priority list. And it was Jon Munger, as chairman, who was responsible and failed to provide monthly and yearly reports to the SBFCA board.

The Sutter County Taxpayers Association and the Sutter County School District were promised by SBFCA management in 2010 that SBFCA would establish the advisory committee in return for its support of the 33-year assessment. They have now broken their promise and the question is WHY? What is it they do not want the public looking into?

Kudos to Yuba City Councilman Stan Cleveland and to Live Oak City Councilman Jason Banks for voting against the CADAC disbanding.