

# *Sutter County Taxpayers Association*

Honesty, Integrity and Cost Effectiveness in Government

P. O. Box 1232, Yuba City, CA 95992, 530-673-6562

[www.suttertaxpayers.com](http://www.suttertaxpayers.com)

Directors

Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

P. O. Box M

Yuba City, CA 95992

Dear Directors:

The Sutter County Taxpayers Association has concerns regarding the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency's proposed three-year budget covering Fiscal Years 2016-17 through 2018-19 and urges each of you Board members to study the budget closely. Several of our concerns are:

- Contracting out Assessment District Administration at a cost of \$45,000 for fiscal years 2016-17 and 2017-18 and \$47,250 for fiscal year 2018-19. The two counties' Assessors offices update assessment rolls on a continuing basis and send out the tax statements with the levee assessment amount shown on the statement. So, why is it necessary to contract with a private firm to administer the assessments?
- The proposed budget amount for Kennedy Modeste Communications from Capital Fund 731 in 2016-17 is for \$120,000. What are Ms. Modeste's duties that justify a contract of this amount? Our observation is that Ms. Modeste takes minutes at the SBFCA Board meetings which is a clerical task. Her minutes include very little information and continually refer to the video tape of the meeting which is recorded and posted by Sutter County Public Information Officer Chuck Smith. A look at the proposed contract is in order to ascertain the extent of her responsibilities and the costs charged.
- The proposed budget amount for Kim Floyd Communications in 2016-17 is for \$175,014. What are Floyd's responsibilities that justify this large amount of money now that the majority of the construction work is nearing completion and public outreach is diminishing? A look at the proposed contract is encouraged to ascertain the extent of her responsibilities. We have major concerns about Kim Floyd's ethics and motivations. She has given misinformation to the Board in the past concerning CADAC members/activities causing one member to resign and one member to be removed. We also have concerns that Floyd does not know

what is required under the Brown Act and has twice caused a scheduled CADAC meeting to be illegally held because neither was noticed properly.

- We strongly recommend that a contract be pursued with either Yuba City or Sutter County to handle the meetings, minutes, posting on the website, etc. to comply with California law. It is very apparent that outside contractors are not familiar with government regulations when a highly paid accounting firm, the legal staff, and the Administrative Secretary reported illegal social security coverage for exempt employees.
- The \$30,000 budgeted for travel in 2016-17 and up to \$45,000 for 2017-18 and 2018-19 seems excessive as the construction work nears completion or is completed.

In closing, SCTA urges you to remember that you are representing the property owners of Sutter and Butte counties and all the taxpayers of the state of California. Yes, we need our levees fixed to protect people and property, but we need to be cognizant of the costs and keep them to a minimum. Just because there may be dollars available, it does not mean we need to spend them unwisely.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Patricia A. Miller  
President

cc Mike Inamine  
Seth Wurzel