September 19, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Fair Political Practices Commissioners,

I am here this morning, inspired by your website headlines: "Politics is a swamp, but California and Washington get high marks for their ethics enforcers." For the last couple of years Scott Vaughan and myself have made an attempt to put transparency and honesty into the government of Placer County but have failed as was evidenced by Scott's complaint to address the numerous violations by the Placer County Board of Supervisors in voting to spike the salary of Supervisor Uhler's wife. You initially rejected our complaint for a lack of evidence on the tape that shows the Chairman walking out of a Board meeting in order to miss potential discussion of his wife's 28% raise.

There was no mention of the raise, nor a discussion so the person to receive the highest bonus of the many that were given was never disclosed publicly. So, in essence, a secret vote occurred so that Tammy and Supervisor Uhler could sail into retirement with a half million dollar annuity. Does this get high marks for transparency?

We appreciate your willingness to reopen this case and take a second look. Please recognize that this was not done in a vacuum. County Counsel, Karen Schwab, wasn't seen stepping in to correct the action her Chairman took and all the other Supervisors had their hands over their mouths, ears, and eyes like good kindergarteners playing "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil".

This might be somehow plausible but when questionable actions like this are repeatedly observed, it's just another day in the Placer County. We have presented to the Placer Board numerous such incidents and, to put this violation into context, I will mention a few to which we voiced our objection.

- Planning Commissioner Moss, Supervisor Uhler's appointee, who was the applicant for a multi-million dollar commercial expansion in a residential zone, was asked by the head of Placer Community Development Services if the expansion was legal.
- Placer officials continually fail to fully comply with Public Records Act requests by omitting key documents – especially lacking are any documents to or from Supervisor Uhler.
- To this day Placer County Tax department hasn't fully accounted for all costs associated with that commercial development which has provided years of reduced taxes and Placer dismisses that certified open space and drainage land designations were developed for personal gain.
- That very same Planning Commissioner levelled an acre and a half of wetlands to expand the project. County officials ignored our objections by categorizing us as "nosy neighbors". The California Department of Fish and Wildlife fined the Commissioner hundreds of thousands of dollars for restitution - a small price for dodging CEQA and building in wetlands.

There are more examples but I think you get Placer's style: "deaf, dumb, and blind". Don't be hoodwinked into by Placer's newest installment of closed and silent government. This was done with Eyes Wide Open by all involved and no admission to anyone.

Respectfully,

Bradley Cutler
Placer Resident