

PROTEST FILING: BOS AGENDA 6/17/2014: Item No. 108 (Proposed Budget CSA 70/W-1 Goat Mountain)

WE are before you now, the BOARD Governing the County Service Areas, demanding that you stand up for the Community of Landers until Landers has a chance to speak through the LAFCO 3181 process! We demand that any Capital Expenditures (eg. Non-routine) related to CSA 70/W-1 (Goat Mountain/Landers) be set aside and placed on hold until LAFCO 3181 is resolved OR at least until the Special Districts Department can adequately justify to the citizens the necessity of a particular project through an honest and transparent disclosure. Do not give them a blank check! Last fiscal year, citizens attempted to obtain information regarding certain recurring but incomplete capital expenditures only to have the door shut in their face when they got close to the truth, and close to exposing the wasteful practices of SDD's spending and SDD's complete dishonesty about the manner in which SDD manages our little community water system.

I want, and many people in Landers want, local control and local representation. But, at this time we have to rely on the Board of Supervisors to represent us. The recommended FY2014/15 budget was only available to the public as of the afternoon of Friday June 13, 2014. I am officially protesting the proposed budget for CSA 70/W-1 (Goat Mountain). I ask you to set aside the entire request of \$660,516 for funding for Capital Improvements for CSA 70/W-1 (Goat Mountain) for FY2014/15 in order to allow the people of Landers to decide on their future water purveyor. The budget proposed for CSA 70 W-1 Goat Mountain Landers PROVES that the Special Districts Department (SDD) wants that to happen by their actions.....but they want to leave us broke when all is said and done.

This budget TAKES the unrestricted cash RESERVES from \$1,278,068 as reported in the 6/30/2013 audit to \$52,802, as projected from the approved FY 13/14 budget and FY 14/15 recommended budgets. SDD has done a minimal amount of capital improvements in the past SIX years to improve our water system; surely 6 months more won't hurt and will possibly save the people hundreds of thousands of dollars. This can only happen if the Board of Supervisors stands up for our rights to a transparent and open process. If we can be heard, our money can be preserved for our future with Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency (BDVWA) where we can watch it more closely. Besides, isn't it poor management to spend down all reserves anyway? Shouldn't someone have questioned this when Mr. Rigney testified to the BOS in May 2014, during the water rate increase hearing. We heard him make broad statements resonating that every water zone was "ahead of schedule" with sufficient reserves now and operating contingencies now, meaning that his 6 year rate increase plan had suddenly become the 1-year plan. Consequently, no water rate increase was needed in Landers in 2014? Doesn't that demonstrate that last year's increase was excessively high?

I am a land owner in CSA 70 W-1. I have many friends in CSA 70 W-1. BDVWA operations staff has driven the area and has been friends with and worked with the CSA 70 W-1 field staff for at least a decade now. We are certain that SDD has over estimated the cost of the Capital Improvements budgeted and we absolutely doubt their necessity as indicated.

In closing, the people of Landers spent the past year organizing and they were successful in convincing the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency Board of Directors to sponsor the annexation. BDVWA committed \$60,000 for this purpose and now that the application has been filed with LAFCO....SDD seemingly wants to spend down what remains of a healthy reserve in just 2 years, just to spite the process and the people.

Please stop this nonsense and demand that the Special Districts Department staff be held accountable to their constituents.

Sincerely,

