

Mike Reagan REFLECTIONS

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YOUR ADVOCATE FOR SOLANO COUNTY'S 5TH DISTRICT

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"Ideas that make the most effective solutions are culled from people with vision, massaged by people with expertise, and championed by people willing to risk leadership roles."

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Lynch Canyon 'noose' on public policy with no business plan

In a 4-1 vote, I lost the argument about the frivolity of spending nearly \$770,000 over the next three years to bail out the Solano Land Trust because it doesn't have the resources to provide the public access that was a condition of the funding it used to buy the land. There are several problems with this decision.

- One, we are spending taxpayer money with no clear expectation of what success will look like.
- The second is Solano Land Trust has a demonstrated history of acquiring land without adequate resources for the operations and maintenance of its properties. Our investment will only enable this disingenuous business strategy instead requiring it to leverage resources to make its property self-sustaining.
- **Thirdly, I have a problem spending 17% more General Fund dollars on one of Solano Land Trust's imposed parks than we are on all three of our existing County parks.**

Imagine how we could improve Belden's Landing, Sandy Beach and Lake Solano if we doubled our investment into those parks. Read my ideas on making parks self-sustaining at www.mikereagan.net

General Plan process, not initiative will keep growth orderly

The list of questions I came up with on the impact of the changes in the proposed 30-year Orderly Growth Initiative (if there are changes it's not an extension) illustrates that this document was prepared in a vacuum. The entire Board came up with over 30 questions. In contrast, the General Plan process will allow us to better understand how the land use policies of the last 20 years are negatively impacting farmers, how they are harming our ability to attract jobs, how they are contributing to our insane cost of housing, and how they are impacting commute patterns and ultimately our asthma rates. The most important aspect of the General Plan process is it allows us to create a "Plan B," options that actually deal with our population growth. Details on my Plan B are at www.mikereagan.net.

Holding nothing back on levee repair or Delta survival

The good news is four out of the 29 critical erosion sites on levees and river embankments being repaired by this fall by the Department of Water Resources is on Solano County's portion of the Delta – that's just shy of 1 mile of riprap. The bad news is the folks upstream on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers still consider Solano County the dumping place for their excess water. The message they need to retain their storm water flows until it's safe to release has been carried to Congressman Dan Lungren, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency and the Delta Visioning Summit. The we-made-some-inroads news is the 5-county Delta region will be working to together to find a joint method to fighting floods.

Compensation reform moving at glacial pace, but moving

I know many of you are frustrated that compensation reform isn't coming fast enough. Nobody is more frustrated than I am! My only solace is that the slow behind-the-scenes progress is starting to gain momentum. Publicly, we tightened the travel policy so it is clear the County must benefit from all County-paid travel. Publicly, we made it clear that a change in the Management Incentive Program is imminent. Behind the scenes, the Personnel Committee is refining a study that tests a more scientific total compensation comparison for selected department heads and front-line employees. I have great hopes that our new Human Resources Director sees the merit of a business-like approach to valuing our employees, and we will see this project moving forward. Keep up the pressure!

Serving You on These Committees

Board of Supervisors

- Personnel Committee
- Military and Veteran Affairs Committee
- Economic Development & Tourism Committee
- Senior Issues Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Transportation Land Use Committee

Delta Protection Commission

California State Association of Counties

- Housing, Land Use and Transportation Committee
- Economic Development Committee
- Water and Flood Control Task Force
- Bay Area Coalition of Counties

Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management Board

ABAG Bay Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility Allocation Committee

Fouts Springs Youth Facility Board of Directors

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

Solano County Water Agency Board of Directors

Remote Access Network Board

Solano Economic Development Corp. Executive Committee & Board of Directors

City-County Coordinating Committee

Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee

Travis Community Consortium

Children's Policy and Planning Council

Winters Branch Library Financing Authority

Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Advisory Board

Concurrent review of zoning ordinances with General Plan

The development of the General Plan relies heavily on public involvement, but the resulting zoning ordinances are amended at the interpretation of staff. In this case, I agree with the Orderly Growth Initiative (OGI) backers who are saying the intent of Measure A in 1984 and their substitute OGI in 1994 have not been translated accurately into zoning practices. The phrase "what is urban shall be municipal" has, in practice, been defined as anything with walls belongs in the city – regardless of logic or the harmful impact on the agriculture the measures were designed to protect. **I will work to have our General Plan process amended to have a concurrent review of relevant zoning ordinances.** Any of you who have had to deal with the County's zoning policies understand they need a serious public vetting, and the General Plan process is the best way for this happen.

Budget debate lays footprint for eventful year ahead

The nearly 700 pages of all documents related to the budget explain how \$870 million in taxpayer dollars will funnel through County departments to provide a whole array of services. What seems to get lost in all the talk about the numbers are some of the priorities that the Board will be focusing on for the next year.

Nearly two dozen ideas, beyond what staff proposed in their budgets, were made part of the agenda for the next 12 months. I've included some of those highlights in this newsletter, for the rest go to www.mikereagan.net.

Purpose for Reserve funds goes beyond a 'budget cushion'

Clearly, one of the more lively discussions during the budget hearings surrounded how much is an appropriate amount of reserves. In the end, the conclusion was we don't know. We do know that we are exceeding our existing 10% policy, but that dollar amount only represented a savings goal, not a plan for keeping the County operating if a natural disaster strikes or our dysfunctional legislature raids county revenues again. **I pushed for (and won) coming up with a strategy that leverages our reserves so we protect the investments the taxpayers have already made and the investments they will be making in the future.** I look forward to this debate in the coming months, because the credible reserve the County has accumulated means this won't be just another academic exercise.

Stepping up gang interdiction to a county-wide crusade

During June, the Sheriff's Office teamed up with the Fairfield Police and five other law enforcement agencies to root out known gangbangers in the Fairfield area. The immediate results: crime is down significantly. Some of their amazing stats:

Total arrests	795		
Felony arrests	258	Vehicles towed	310
Misdemeanor arrests	537	Parole searches	268
Enforcement stops	2,921	Probations searches	211
Citations issued	1,551	Weapons seized	82

My challenge to the Sheriff and the District Attorney was to determine what resources they are going to need sustain this level of effort in a county-wide campaign. I've also asked them to work with U.S. Immigration Control and Enforcement to develop procedures that allow the quick deportation of illegal immigrant felons, making space in our county jail for our "home-grown" criminals.

Senior Coalition now official, tackling a report on services

A unanimous decision by the Board made the Senior Coalition an official advisory body on senior issues. At the same time the Senior Coalition was tasked with creating a baseline assessment report on senior services throughout the county. These actions mirror the successful efforts the County made on children for the last 25 years, so I am confident we will make progress on senior issues. A generous thank you goes out to all of the folks who have stepped forward to make this collaborative effort possible.

Thank you for stepping up and serving Solano County

Thanks to **Liana Myers** of Rio Vista who stepped up to serve on the Tobacco Advisory Board. **MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE** on www.mikereagan.net.