

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District

Meeting at Cascabel Community Center, February 9, 2016, 2p.m.

Comments for the Call to the Public

My name is Lynn Smith-Lovin, and I live with my husband Miller McPherson at 5999 N. Canyon Road. We have lived in the NRCD for well over a decade, and have been cooperators for longer than that.

I have a number of comments about the agreement between Sunzia and our NRCD.

First, as a cooperator, I would like to have a copy of the text of the agreement, which I understand obligates our NRCD to major efforts in the future, and will bring significant funds into our NRCD from Sunzia.

(If the full agreement is not forthcoming)

What information about this important agreement can you share? What obligations have been incurred for our organization?

According to public comment by Phil Hedrick at the ACC hearing and the Fall 2015 Winkleman NRCD Quarterly Newsletter, our NRCD will receive \$300,000 over a three year period for some services, as well as payment of \$62,000 of attorney fees. Can you confirm those figures?

What exact deliverables are we obligated to provide under the agreement?

The Winkleman NRCD Quarterly Newsletter reports that part of the agreement between our NRCD and Sunzia is that we not oppose the route through the San Pedro during the line siting and ACC process. You subsequently gave public comment in support of Sunzia at the ACC hearing. Can you confirm that this positive public comment was motivated by this agreement?

What plans or agreements exist for the disposition of Sunzia funds by our NRCD? (See paragraph 2, section 1 of the NRCD Operations Handbook)

What mechanism will be put in place to communicate with NRCD cooperators for the disposition of these funds? I note that In our Operating Handbook, Section 1b, District Board and Responsibilities...Duties as required by State Statute...."All district funds are public funds regardless of the source because Districts are a public body." "Supervisors are responsible and accountable to the people of the district..."

Will any of NRCD Supervisors, as public officials, directly benefit from the expenditure of these funds?

Will there be a bidding process to decide what vendors or organizations will be chosen to provide these services? Will Supervisors, their families, or employees be allowed to bid? Is there a conflict of interest in this process, and how will it be handled?

What public notice will be provided to cooperators of successful completion of tasks or projects? (NRCD Operations Handbook Section (1) B)

What provision is there for cooperator input in the disposition of these funds? I note that the NRCD Operations Handbook says in the second paragraph of Section I that "No resource conservation or development should be done without first developing a clearly defined goal as to what the people of a district are trying to accomplish." How will our NRCD accomplish this requirement in our community, with this large influx of funds (and presumably activities to expend them)?

Given that the precedent has been set for hiring attorneys for fighting in the interest of our NRCD and its conservation goals in the valley, what process will be available for deciding on future legal efforts and their resolution?

Now, a somewhat separate issue. I know that in the past 15 years or so, there has been some problem in allowing cooperators moving from non-voting non-resident cooperator status to resident voting cooperator status. Given a large influx of people into the valley who are becoming permanent residents, could you clarify the process of changing from non-resident non-voting cooperator to resident voting member?

When is the next election, which is required by state statute to be held every 2 years? Which supervisor positions will be filled in that election?

I respectfully request that these comments be entered into the meeting minutes, which our Operating Handbook requires be made available to cooperators within three days after this meeting. I have copies for the Secretary and for all of the Supervisors. I will send a copy via email to absent Supervisor Charlie Ffolliet.