

February 10, 2021

Dear Board of Directors,

Please consider these comments as they relate to your February 11, 2021 agenda **Item 5.B. Consideration of updates to the policy & procedures manual**, my comments relate specifically to the 13.02 General Rules Governing Committees and the timing of the additional bullet point. ***“Committee members must be registered San Simeon voters, property owners, or own a business that operates within the District boundary.”***

Please provide the legal basis for this change.

Additionally, Ms. Fry is a consultant for the District and should not be a voting member of the Budget Committee, or any other committee. Historically, your District has also had the auditor on the committee; again this is inappropriate.

As you can see from the minutes of January 14, 2021 where your board considered the appointment of committee members at time stamp 1:04:15 Chair Kellas had made a motion, which was unnecessary, the agenda item clearly states these are the “Chair appointment of standing committee members.” See excerpt from minutes here:

6. C. Chair appointment of standing committee members per District policy # 4060.30.

(57:45) Gwen Kellas introduced the item. The two (2) committees are Budget and Water. Current committee members or members of the public wanting to be on the water committee –

(58:49) Michael Hanchett asked to remain on the committees. No changes. Current committee members or members of the public wanting to be on the budget committee – (59:42) Daniel de la Rosa asked to be replaced as a budget committee member. Julie Tacker asked to be on both the water and budget committees. April Dury asked to be on the budget committee.

(1:03:10) Chairperson Kellas named the committees:

***(1:04:15) Water – Russell, Hanchett, Price, Tacker, and de la Rosa. Budget – Fry, Hanchett, Tacker, Dury, and Maurer. Chairperson Kellas made a motion to except the committee members as stated. There was no second. [emphasis added]***

Public Comment –

(1:05:19) Bob Hather commented. Michael C. Hanchett commented on having committee members that were not residents and had no financial or quality of life interest in the community. Jerry Copeland commented. Cortney Murguia commented. Michael R. Hanchett commented. Director de la Rosa agreed with Michael C. Hanchett's comments. This item was deferred until the February Board meeting.

Based on the newly proposed policy, it appears your board intends on blocking two women who applied to be on committees at the January meeting from being appointed.

While it is none of anyone's business where we live; Ms. Dury and I do reside outside of San Simeon (as do others who regularly participate and care about San Simeon). To change your policy in this way, **at this time**, it is apparent you are discriminating against us as women. Both women who were briefly appointed on January 14, 2021 will now be ineligible for committee assignments if you amend the policy as proposed.

Furthermore, the membership as proposed excludes residents of San Simeon who are not registered voters – with only 190 registered voters in San Simeon you will exclude hundreds of people from the pool of potential committee members.

Additionally, to include business owners as a requirement of committee membership presents potential conflicts of interest as commercial properties pay different water and sewer rates than the residents of the District.

Considering the comments provided by Mr. Hanchett (included in the agenda packet related to this item) it is evident the district is changing its long-standing policy to specifically block Ms. Dury and myself from serving on committees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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