



Larry Herrera/CC/CLB

08/10/2012 05:31 PM

To: Agenda Supporting Docs, "John Gross"
<John.Gross@longbeach.gov>, "Dennis Strachota"
<Dennis.Strachota@longbeach.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: Fw: The Budget Oversight Committee

From: anngadfly

Sent: 08/10/2012 08:16 PM AST

To: cityclerk@longbeach.gov

Cc: District3@LongBeach.gov; district2@longbeach.gov; district4@longbeach.gov

Subject: The Budget Oversight Committee

Dear Chairman DeLong, Councilmembers Lowenthal and O'Donnell:

I would like clarification on the duties of the Budget Oversight Committee. Is it your purpose to just receive and file the submitted budgets of each council office, or do you have some control over the way the funds are used?

I am asking this question is because of the One-Time Upland Oil Funds Budget, which was presented at the June 18, 2012 meeting, and is being revisited on August 15, (Agenda Item 6). Specifically, I am questioning the proposed expenditures for District Four. Under Infrastructure Repairs, District Four is budgeting \$31,300 for El Dorado Dog Park. The status report states: "**Project is estimated at \$65,000; balance funded by the District's discretionary infrastructure budget**"

I have several issues with these expenditures:

First, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved this dog park with the mandate that no city money was to be used. They told the Friends of El Dorado Dog Park that before the project could be started they were "provide into an escrow account the funds necessary to build the EDDP to specifications created by the City, as well as an amount equal to three years of maintenance costs". It was made clear to the Friends that the City had no money to build another dog park and the Friends agreed to this arrangement; they are now arguing that the City helped build the other 5 dog parks and dog beach. This is accurate, but that was when there were more funds available for these extras.

The FEDDP were also required to submit plans to the City's Development Services Department for approval and application of CEQA (CA Environmental Quality Act). I have been assured by Amy Bodek that this has not yet occurred. How can Councilmember O'Donnell be giving city funds to a project that might not qualify under CEQA?

Second, this report clearly states these Upland Oil funds are for "Infrastructure Repairs". The Mayor has stated numerous times, this money is to be used for one-time, not ongoing projects. Please explain how the El Dorado Dog Park qualifies under these rules.

Third, if \$31,300 is coming from Upland Oil Infrastructure Repair funds, what are the "District's discretionary infrastructure" funds that make up the other \$33,700 of the \$65,000 project? In looking at this report, I saw that Councilmember O'Donnell had not budgeted or spent the \$16,667 from Neighborhood Services mini-projects, so I assumed this was a portion of the needed money, however, he assures me it is not.

Because your committee has already voted to receive and file this report, if the money has not yet been spent, can you require the councilmember to use the funds for another project that fulfills all of the needed qualifications?

If there are no changes made by Councilmember O'Donnell and the committee again approves giving this money to the El Dorado Dog Park, is there a process by which this can be heard by the full City Council?

I would appreciate if my questions on procedure be answered before the August 15, 2012 meeting.

Thank you,
Ann Cantrell