El Dorado County Farm Trails – 2024 County Supervisor Candidate Questions

Instructions to Candidates: *Please provide your written responses before the end of the Sunday before the scheduled Zoom call for your District.* Your responses will be posted on our website and on YouTube for voters to review. The forum moderators will select one of your responses and ask for additional detail during the forum. Thanks in advance for your participation!

• With the County's on-going struggle to fund its budget, how would you propose to either reduce the County's expenditures and/or increase the County's revenues? What services could be reduced or cut, to reduce expenditures? Where and how might revenues be increased?

We need to increase revenues by bringing new high tech jobs, bring back logging, increase agritourism and work to qualify for more state/federal funding. We try to reduce expenses with competitive bidding and better budget management.

• What is your position on the proposed Costco development in EDH and why? What benefits & drawbacks do you see this project having on EDC?

Due to contract negotiations, I am unable to discuss the matter at this time.

• In the last couple of years, the Planning and Building Dept has come under scrutiny to the point of there even being a Grand Jury investigation. What are your thoughts on the results of this investigation, the current BOS' response to this, and what would you do to improve the shortcomings of this department?

We have been encouraging them to communicate better and more often so they can be service oriented as a department. We have helped Planning Department conduct public outreach and meetings with residents so they can operate more effectively.

• Would you support the building of the proposed Alder Creek Dam? What are the benefits or determents of this project as you see it?

Yes. We need this high altitude water storage to help residents and agriculture for our county. The benefits are many, and the determents are few, since the area in question has been approved for such use by concerned environmental groups.

• Wildfires are an ongoing concern for the citizens of EDC. CalFire has implemented what some might consider very restrictive and even intrusive regulations. The County is also looking at codifying its own set of fire prevention regulations. Do you feel this is appropriate, or not, and why?

George pushed Tom McClintock to change the USFS "let it burn" policy to no longer "let it burn" and pushed Alex Padilla to pass the FEMA Fire Act. I am opposed to the vegetation management ordinance because it violates people's 4<sup>th</sup> amendment rights and Fire Safe

Councils can work with residents to provide defensible space on properties. Government should not tell people how to manage their properties.

• Do you support the concept of a 'constitutional' sherrif? Why or why not?

Yes. I swore an Oath to uphold the US Constitution and the CA Constitution, so the Sheriff should uphold the same.

• Recently, the Ranch Marketing Ordinance has been under scrutiny because of the accessory uses allowed to ranchers and farmers "by right" such as non-agriculture events. In some circumstances land owners were taking advantage of the fact that specific use definitions were not defined. Do you feel that the matter is covered appropriately now or do you feel it needs to be explored more?

Due to ongoing work by an ad-hoc committee, I am unable to discuss the matter at this time.