

El Dorado County Farm Trails 2024

District Three Questionnaire

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1. Ways to reduce expenditures are to look at County employee vacancy rates, overtime expenditures, etc. and unless completely necessary such as emergency preparedness staffing, cut or eliminate vacancies and overtime. Work with all Department heads to develop this strategy especially directing them to utilize best practices and value-based principles for excellent customer service. Lead by example of applying this strategy at BOS level first and then throughout the organization. Instill a culture of can-do, value-added service and review of processes and practices to ensure efficient and proper use of resources (taxpayers' money). Revenue enhancements should be aimed at our Tourist Industry. TOT rate is low when compared to other jurisdictions. Work to get it increased. Work to form assessment districts to collect increased revenue from again tourists. Our Agri-Tourism economy produces a hefty amount for the industry, but the latest tax report for the county coffers is very low. Assessment districts would correct this and "not" be an increase for Ag or residents. It puts the burden on the user (tourist) and funds infrastructure, etc. Another opportunity is to grow our business community, support them, not over regulate them and entice business to develop in El Dorado County, especially in the Western portion where infrastructure supports it. During my last term on the BOS, we were pursuing TOT's on Campgrounds as well and it has fallen by the wayside. This is another opportunity to collect from those that use resources and we all know how attractive it is to camp in El Dorado County. Other jurisdictions are successful at implementing these funding sources and so should we. Finally, we should engage our community groups/chambers and service clubs for ideas and solutions. Some of these groups travel on study missions to educate themselves with regions across the United States that are finding success. These groups would be extremely beneficial for input for the county. Quicker, can-do permitting process and completion generates more revenue with additional taxes coming into the coffers.
2. I absolutely support Costco in El Dorado County. I worked diligently in my past term to garner interest in them coming to our county. As far as El Dorado Hills location goes, I'd rather see a Costco further up the hill, such as Missouri Flat Road but, Costco wouldn't budge on their desired location even though development costs in El Dorado Hills are much more costly. Sales tax leakage to Folsom is huge and especially now with the way Amazon sales tax is getting distributed (not in our favor). We must get that sales tax into our county. Benefits are sales tax generation and more local descent paying jobs. Drawbacks could be traffic to and from, but can be mitigated with proper infrastructure.
3. Planning and Building has been a work in progress for years. It was a department that during my BOS terms, we revamped and worked to change the culture. From reviewing the Grand Jury report and the County's responses there is more work to be done. It's not Rocket Science! Other jurisdictions don't have these issues because they apply best practices, contract out and

cater to their customers. This is another area that the Board of Supervisors must take seriously and from the current board responses, I'm not sure they understand the community's angst with Building and Planning. This is exactly why more people take it upon themselves to do things without permits. We need to be customer friendly and lead our employees to a culture of "How can we help you get your project done quickly, efficiently, without pain and torture, while we nicely collect their fees". The quicker projects get completed by permit, the quicker it gets onto the tax role, thus creating more revenue. DUH! By completing all of the above, it helps pay for the employees' salaries too. We need to get back to engaging employees in trainings that express what the standard culture should be in the Building and Planning Department in addition to all department's county wide. So far, for the most part I agree and so does the community with the Grand Jury findings. If elected as the District Three Supervisor, I will strive to improve this department. We can always do better and must listen to feedback, even if it isn't what we want to hear! Evaluate and ask for more feedback.

4. I absolutely support it for upstream water storage. In my eight years as El Dorado County Water Agency Chair, we advocated/lobbied for it in Washington D.C. and locally. Upstream water storage has many benefits which include a multipurpose water resource project. It captures and stores excess water for stabilizing downstream flows, especially in dry years. Potential for hydro power, flood control, and recreation are additional benefits. There are many details to be worked out and getting the State to be on board most likely will be a heavy lift, but it is a project well worth pursuing for future generations. The usual groups that oppose such projects as this one have been consulted with (American Whitewater folks, Fish folks) and are open to this project because of location and benefits. It's only been contemplated since 1916, maybe we can move it forward in our lifetime??
5. Something has to be done. The catastrophic wildfires and smoke ruins our Ag crops, way of life, and insurance rates are through the roof, well if you can even get fire insurance. State Public Resources code 4291 is a good framework for Vegetation Management but, lacks teeth. The County Vegetation Management ordinance needs some refining and the Federal Government needs to do their part as well. There is movement in the right direction, it's just vegetation has gotten out of hand and by the way, it grows back. Between the County Fire Safe Council and the 26 plus localized councils, SMUD, PG&E, EID, the South Fork American River Cohesive Strategy Group, Placerville City and El Dorado County, progress is being made. We must be proactive and work to prevent instead of being reactive and accepting the status quo. Talk about severe damage to the environment, smoke and smoke by-products, soil sterilization, habitat devastation, public safety threats, including death! This subject is a must act on and obviously the benefits will be more than the pain. We chose to live in the Wildland Urban Interface and with that there comes responsibility to maintain our landscapes. My Grandfather taught me long ago, "Manage the land or it will manage you"! I've testified before two Federal Congressional Committees in Washington D.C. on this very topic.
6. Yes, I support it. Our Country's Constitution is our "protection" and framework for our survival. If our government or others try and take our rights given to us by the constitution, we must have our local law enforcement on the side that protects and advocates for right versus wrong. I

believe El Dorado County supports this as Sheriff D 'Agostini and Sheriff Leikauf have been overwhelmingly elected on this very issue.

7. I believe the ordinance revisions address the issues that have arisen. Realistically the old ordinance covered it quite well. The problem is/was some ranches don't abide by the ordinances and the county turns a deaf ear to the ranches that are not complying. When I was on the Board of Supervisors, we established a task force to visit ranches to educate and enforce the requirements of the ordinance. If you're going to have rules, policies, ordinances, you enforce them or get rid of them. The three biggest issues are events, vendors with products that are not ranch/local oriented and lack of capacity to move traffic. The ordinance and by right rules are clearly defined and need to be followed. Our county is blessed to have this asset called Ag Tourism, but just like with living in the Wildland Urban Interface, we must be responsible and not infringe upon the rights of the others that live in the Ag Districts. We must be respectful and keep in mind our limits of infrastructure/roads which are sometimes over taxed even without extra Ag events, etc. We can make this a win-win and I'm committed to it as I've been in the past as a District Three Supervisor.