

**From:** Clerk of the Board Office  
**To:** COBSupport@mendocinocounty.org  
**Date:** 5/6/2019 4:48 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: communications received

>>> John Sakowicz <sako4@comcast.net> 05/06/19 16:48 >>>

6 May 2019

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Mendocino County, CA

Karla Van Hagen:

Please include my letter to "Communications Received" in the Board packet for the May 7 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Thank you.

John Sakowicz  
1201 El Dorado Road  
Ukiah CA  
95482-3680

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Dear Supervisors:

I am writing to ask you to pull for discussion from the May 7 Consent Calendar, Item 4-i. The item is called, "Adoption of Resolution Creating the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee (Sponsors: Board of Supervisors and County Counsel).

My reason for asking you to pull the item is that I want to make the Board aware that in creating the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee ("MCCAAC") the county may be going down a slippery slope with the Mendocino Environmental Center ("MEC") and its president, Alicia Little Tree Bales.

It is my strongly held belief that over time, Ms. Bales, and her hand-picked cohorts at the MEC, will hijack the CAAC for their own purposes.

I also strongly believe that Ms. Bales -- and Supervisor John McCowan, with whom Bales has at least a landlord-tenant relationship, and possibly more -- is influencing the emerging CAAC to get Bales appointed to manage the CAAC as a private contractor. The total compensation for that position is \$94,801. As a private contractor, Ms. Bales would not be subject to the hiring process stipulated by Civil Service requirements.

In sum, this job is being created for Ms. Bales. It smacks of cronyism.

I served on the MEC's Board from 2017-2019, and hosted a radio show on KMEC from 2015-2018. Some of my shows have received upwards of 65,000 views. See: <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=ray+mcgovern+jfk+kmec+youtube&view=detail&mid=8AB851CFA3441C77B3FF8AB851CFA3441C77B3FF&FORM=VIRE>

Over the years, as a Board member I raised thousands of dollars from underwriters, foundations, and members for the MEC.

I loved the MEC, especially its mission of peace and social justice, and environmental justice. But everything changed when Bales engineered her appointment as Board president when her predecessor suddenly resigned. Bales had not immediately served on the Board. She came out of nowhere.

Bales' first order of business was to purge the Board and insert her own friends who would rubberstamp her personal agenda. I resigned from the Board, as did Mary Massey. Board member Joel Thompson was voted off the Board. Emmanuel Mallo, who is West African, and Josefina Duenas, who is Latina, resigned from the Board, alleging racism.

My fear is that Bales will do the same at the CAAC. She will install her friends at the CAAC, or otherwise influence their appointments. She will then have the CAAC vote to hire her as its manager. Worst, Bales will bring an extremist agenda to the CCAAC.

Let's not forget the history of the MEC. The MEC's founder and best-known leader, Judi Bari, was a self-proclaimed anarchist. Her husband, Mike Sweeney, was a self-proclaimed Maoist. Both identified themselves as "warriors". What followed were years of chaos and conflict, years of bombings, federal investigations, lawsuits, and negative publicity for Mendocino County.

It was a nightmare, especially for well-meaning activists.

It was a nightmare for law enforcement at every level -- federal, state, and county.

Now here comes Alicia Bales. In Board meetings she has identified herself as Judi Bari's protégé. She has identified herself as a warrior. And she is an extremist.

I don't think Bales has ever been described as a moderate -- she is incapable of it.

And being unemployed and unemployable -- Bales is an actress and voice coach -- Bales needs a job. Creating a job for her is cronyism.

Bales furthermore wouldn't want to be subsumed in the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District or the Air Quality Management District. Bales doesn't want a boss.

If you approved the resolution described in 4-i, please create safeguards to prevent a takeover of the CAAC by the MEC and Ms. Bales. Such a takeover will only hurt the real movement to control carbon emissions and fight global warming in Mendocino County. The infrastructure already exists to accomplish these goals.

Thank you.

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