

Chair Gjerde and Honorable Members of the Board,

I would like to make the Board aware of a recent example of the CEO unilaterally making decisions that are within the purview of the Board. It has been reported that the Redwood Valley Fire Chief spoke to CEO Angelo requesting financial support for fire warning sirens. CEO Angelo is reported to have told him there was no money for that purpose. If this is true it's a clear example of CEO Angelo usurping the authority of the Board and unilaterally making a decision that is not hers to make.

The Board of Supervisors has come under increasing criticism due to assertions that key decisions are not made by the Board but by CEO Angelo. The manipulation of the PG&E disaster funds supports this assertion. From the initiation of the lawsuit it was known that any funds received would be 100% discretionary and not subject to any restrictions. However, despite over \$22 million being in hand since July 7 of last year not one dime has been allocated for disaster relief or mitigation. When I or other Supervisors referenced these funds as a potential source of funding for minor disaster related purposes the CEO, County Counsel and Executive Office staff all falsely asserted that it was not known what restrictions applied to the funds and none of the \$22 million could be allocated until extensive and complicated study was completed. This was a complete fiction and an example of the CEO making decisions unilaterally and County Counsel lying to the Board to back her up. Keep this in mind as you become aware of other instances of the CEO acting unilaterally and the CEO and County Counsel failing to honestly advise the Board.

The issue of the CEO exceeding her authority has become increasingly apparent in recent years but a majority of the previous Board was not willing to consistently assert their authority over the CEO. This issue has only become worse with time and is increasingly an issue of public concern. I believe that if the Board continues to overlook or excuse the behavior of the CEO and County Counsel it will seriously undermine the credibility of the Board and potentially put at risk anything you hope to accomplish.

The Board reviewed the performance of CEO Angelo earlier this year and more recently the performance of County Counsel Curtis. In light of recent events that raise questions about their commitment to their defined roles and responsibilities I encourage the Board to revisit their evaluations. The actions of the CEO and County Counsel are of increasing concern to the public. They ought to be of equal concern to you.

John McCowen