

From: Stephen Whitaker <whitaker@mcn.org>
To: <vanhagenk@mendocinocounty.org>
Date: 6/5/2018 1:25 PM
Subject: Fwd: CSA Letter to the BOS

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Don McCormick <dcmccormick001@gmail.com>
Date: June 5, 2018 at 10:08:24 AM PDT
To: "Su & Stephen Whitaker" <whitaker@mcn.org>
Cc: pearlwatts@mcn.org, mkomer@pacific.net
Subject: CSA Letter to the BOS

Steve,

FYI - I sent the following letter to each of the Supervisors this morning. I don't know if they will get it before the scheduled 1:30 agenda item, but I thought you might want to have it available if you do make it to the meeting today.
Thanks.

Don

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Date: 5 June 2018
To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
From: Donald McCormick
Subject: Proposed Cultural Services Agency

Dear Supervisor _____

At the 27 March 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting, you heard a proposal from the CEO to create a Cultural Services Agency to oversee the consolidation of the county library system, museum, and parks. The County Librarian supported this proposal. You then heard from 17 members of the public, 16 of whom opposed the formation of a CSA, primarily based on their concerns over negative impacts to the library system. One speaker was neutral.

After a discussion among the members, the Board directed the staff to flesh out the concept of a CSA with specifics and details and to evaluate the costs and benefits – specifically improved services – of other options they developed.

It is clear from the slides to be presented at today's board meeting that the staff did prepare a budget estimate for a CSA, but they did not complete the rest of the assignment:

- They did not provide specifics and details for the CSA concept
- They did not assess or attempt to explain the improved services to the public from the three entities that would result from the formation of a CSA
- They did not develop any alternative approaches
- They did not analyze the costs and benefits of such alternatives.

It appears that what has been done thus far is simply redrawing the organization chart. In the absence of articulating how this new structure will operate and how it will improve services, it is at best a simple technique for giving the impression of change; at worst it is akin to rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

After the 27 March meeting, I was skeptical of the benefits of creating a CSA, but I hoped that a thorough cost/benefit analysis would alleviate those concerns. After reviewing the "analysis" prepared for today's meeting, I am firmly opposed to the creation of a CSA. I sincerely hope that you are, too.

Respectfully,

Donald McCormick
Manchester, CA

