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January 16, 2024 Regular Meeting Item #7a. – Fred Stump Public Comment

Dear Chair Duggan (other Board members copied),

Tomorrow's Board agenda includes a discussion of potential financing options to support housing. As a past Board member that voted for the Housing Ordinance I support this discussion. I understand that the creation of an EIFD will be part of the discussion. If at some point in the future the Board of Supervisors decides to pursue this option then I have an "ask" of the County. That "ask" is that every potential impacted entity, Special Districts specifically, be part of a County outreach effort so that the County can understand the potential impacts on those entities. Those impacts would include maintaining service operations performed by each District and understanding Special District future planning considerations that will require funding. It is also important to understand how much each District relies on property taxes for budgetary support.

I have looked at EFIDs in other areas of California. The one's that appear the most successful have "buy in" by the participating parties. "Buy in" creates collaboration, understanding and support. Without "buy in" there is resistance and perhaps resentment. Outside the Town limits I count 14 Special Districts, School Districts and the Mammoth Hospital District excluded, that could be impacted if included. Those Districts each have governing Boards with elected representatives. For the 14 Districts I have counted that makes for 68 elected officials whose opinions need to be heard. It would be 70 elected officials except that the Lee Vining Fire Board has only 3 members. Then there are the two CSA's that also receive Property Taxes that support local improvements in their respective coverage areas. Even though those Boards are considered "advisory" inclusivity should include outreach to them.

I hope you will consider my request. The County and the Special Distracts need each other to provide the package of services County Residents relay on and each entity has their own issues and concerns. Those services also support future growth within each District's capacity. There are definite positive impacts of mutual understanding and communication.

Thank you respectfully, Fred Stump