

## Paul Woods

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**From:** Terry McKearney <terry.mckearney@therangergroup.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 25, 2015 5:11 PM  
**To:** Moises Aguirre; Paula Hall; Nicholas Segura Jr; Arturo Solis; Frank Tarantino; Kevin Pike  
**Cc:** Deanne Vicedo; Karen Janney; Nick Marinovich; Ditas Yamane; Munoz Rafael; Edgar Guerrero (eguerrero74@me.com); Daniel Gutowski; Carriedo Robert; Kevin O'Neill (mkocci@att.net); Paul Woods; Karl Bradley; Theresa Andrews; Kathleen Cheers  
**Subject:** Project Labor Agreement

Dear Board Members,

Inasmuch as I will be on travel and unable to attend this Monday's Board meeting, and unable to offer public comment along with other members of the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC), I wanted to directly communicate with you what I would have said in public commentary during the meeting.

As you know, as a committee the CBOC has expressed disappointment at the hurried and unilateral approach the Board took in passing Resolution 4391 concerning Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on October 12th. As the taxpayer association representative on the CBOC, I feel a special duty to express the taxpayers' view of the resolution's intent, which is clearly to restrict the competition for taxpayer funded construction projects within the district. By intentionally limiting the labor source for construction projects to a single entity, the San Diego County Building and Trades Council, the Board has effectively decided to "single source" construction labor to a pre-selected provider, giving this provider the sole access to the largest and most expensive building projects to be undertaken by the district. Individual contractors will have no latitude in their pricing and, in fact, the pool of contractor providers is now effectively limited to those approved by the Council.

I am not so naive as to realize that organized labor is not looked upon as a usual "provider" and I realize that the unions behind the Council and this resolution are active participants in a political process that seeks to circumvent the usual competitive bidding process. By fixing labor rates and predetermining who can be hired by contractors doing business with the District, the PLA ensures higher prices for work to be done by a more limited pool of labor, pre-approved and beholden to the Council. This is hardly the fair and open competition for best value in the expenditure of bond funds the electorate had in mind when Proposition O was passed almost eight years ago.

As troubling as the specifics of the PLA decision are to those of us on the CBOC, just as disturbing is the manner in which the resolution was proposed and passed. The CBOC was not given the opportunity to weigh in on the resolution, which would have been fully within the purview of our charter and the intent of the establishing legislation for oversight committees, Proposition 39. The quick agendizing and passing of Resolution 4391 was an "end around" of not only the CBOC, but the public in general. It was clearly intended to bypass public debate and scrutiny. This is particularly disconcerting when the Board was elected with great promise – and expectation – of heightened transparency and keeping faith with the public.

The implementation of Resolution 4391 will unavoidably limit competition for Proposition O and Mello-Roos work in the Sweetwater District. It will raise the cost of this work and make it impossible for the District to get the best possible pricing for its money. It passes control of a significant portion of the bidding and construction competition process to a small, select special interest group. This sounds sadly familiar to the administrative polices of the past Board and it's clear that the voters of the Sweetwater District have traded the unaccountable and costly influence of one special interest group for another.

Sincerely,

Terry McKearney  
Member  
Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee