

## **ELLEN PIRIE, TOM BURNS, DAVID LEE, SUSAN MAURIELLO ALL IN HOT WATER – ACCOMPLICES TO EACH OTHER?**

September 24, 2008 - It was another heated day at the Santa Cruz County Supervisor's Meeting yesterday. At the tip of the flame was upright **Vince Lo Franco**, former Code Compliance staff member, vilifying **Tom Burns**, Planning Director, and **David Lee**, Assistant Director. **Lo Franco** witnessed **David Lee** of actually falsifying computer code entries so the number of open cases and red tagged properties having difficulty with Code Compliance, sent to the Grand Jury would look better than it actually was. He accused **Burns** of having a management style of intimidation and force. When the Supervisors appeared to not understand the gravity of **Lo Franco's** commentary, **Claire Machado**, another former County Code Compliance employee now land use designer, came to the microphone in support, but was quickly asked to sit down by **Ellen Pirie**, Supervisor, *who doesn't want the truth exposed*. **Machado** directly experienced the former Code Compliance manager of doing the same to mislead and satisfy another Grand Jury report.

**Machado**, all day long, spoke eloquently on the abuses and incompetence of the Planning Dept Senior Management. She pointed out case after case, where they have violated code and citizens' rights. **Ellen Pirie**, Chair Supervisor and her accomplice supervisors continued to ignore the **Lo Franco** and **Machado** statements attempting to achieve overdue reforms.

**Susan Mauriello**, County Administrator, was challenged by **G. Richard Arnold**, Executive Director of the Association of Real Estate Advisors, for providing County data to the UN Agenda 21 groups outside the County. She was also lambasted for sourcing a document from the Grand Jury that misrepresents actual Planning Department practices. In fact, she was challenged by the Supervisors themselves when she authored a report on the failure of the County to have accurate code enforcement codes on-line. She tried to claim that the responsibility for the "validity" and "enforceability" of the code was the vendor's and not the County's. This was summarily rejected by the Supervisor's after many citizens objected and stated **Tom Burns** and the Clerk of the Board did not supply the vendor with the code updates and ordered delinking the codes from the Planning section of the website. **Lo Franco** pointed out that Tom Burns took zero responsibility for the breakdown in the codes and continues to deny his mismanagement adversely affecting tens of thousands of property owners permit outcomes. Many asked for the firing or resignation of **Tom Burns**, **David Lee** and **Ellen Pirie**.

**Cove Britton**, Matson Britton architect, presented a strong case showing that the County cannot choose to eliminate California Building Section Code 108.8, requiring a local appeals board per State mandate. **Pirie** agreed to disagree. She claimed that the Supervisors have been informed by **Dana McRae**, County Counsel, that the elimination of 108.8 and substitution of a narrower and more limited appeal board was legal and within the County's right to do so. Citizen's protested pointing out that it is specifically against the laws of the State of California to do so as the regulation restricts them to geological and seismic additions only. The Supervisors, Planning and County Counsel will be held responsible for evasion of higher Statutes. The County also continues to ignore the requirement of a Housing Appeal Board.

The Supervisors then had the gall to nominate five members to the limited appeals board, three of which were on the previous board which did not meet for 6.5

years. **Luke Rizzuto**, local contractor and applicant, spoke up saying that he was not even interviewed for a position on the appeals board and other citizen's pointed out that the County did not keep their word to promote the openings in widely advertising to invite applications. The Supervisors then went ahead and nominated their self selected board with a quorum of repeat nonperformers. Another slap in the face to the public they refuse to listen to. Will outside the county Federal and State agencies slap back?

Local Aptos resident, **Reverend Oracle**, first requested on September 9, 2008, made a second request of the Supervisor's to correct outdated and erroneous Ordinance 1.04.080 section E.1. and Ordinance 1.05.050 which are in opposition to the laws of State statute of limitations and Civil Code Procedure 338. This follow-up request to have a discussion on the agenda September 30, 2008, to amend the 90 day limitation for legal action and 6 – 12 months for claims by citizens currently in the ordinances, misleads citizens as they are lawfully allowed two, three and four years. Of course, no commitment was made to do so by the Board of Supervisors and **Dana McRae**, County Counsel, remained silent as usual.

Reverend Oracle also revealed to the Supervisors and Planning Department that the County had not made **Governor Schwarzenegger's Emergency Executive Order S-08-08 and S-07-08** (specifically for Santa Cruz County) for the Fire Victims available to them. In fact, the County has aggressively pursued unethical and abusive actions against fire burn property owners through Red Tag Notices of Violations, threats of land takings and criminal action – when reviewed are all unjustified activities and in full disregard of **Schwarzenegger's** decree. The Governor has provided rights for grading, clearing, etc. without permits (with Cal Fire and Fish & Game support) and a reprieve from fees, which this County has deemed not worthy of them to support which further burns these victims twice. This is a local government out of control that many have now named, the “Web of Corruption and Deception”.