

## Fw: [EXT]Comments by Eric Greening on Agenda Item 22 for the August 11th Board of Supervisors meeting

AD-Board-Clerk <ad\_board\_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>

Fri 8/7/2020 01:55 PM

To: Vicki Janssen <vjanssen@co.slo.ca.us>; Micki Olinger <molinger@co.slo.ca.us>; Caleb Mott <cmott@co.slo.ca.us>; Blake Fixler <bfixler@co.slo.ca.us>; Lynn Compton <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>; Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>

Correspondence received.

**Sincerely,**

**Clerk of the Board Team**

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**From:** Eric Greening <dancingsilverowl@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2020 01:43 PM

**To:** AD-Board-Clerk <ad\_board\_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>

**Subject:** [EXT]Comments by Eric Greening on Agenda Item 22 for the August 11th Board of Supervisors meeting

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It may be too late to revisit the question of whether some departments should be cut less than others because they provide "public safety," but I continue to believe the definition behind the current choices is too narrow. Enforcing laws and putting out fires are not the only ways to keep people safe. Providing safe, clean, and reliable water, insuring that our food is safe, providing health care, and keeping up the roads, and planning development, in ways that prevent traffic accidents, also help the public be safer. I believe the starting premise of every budget in which cuts are required should be that every department be required to make proportionately equal cuts, with the option of any department "going at issue" if a case can be made for some extraordinary justification for more resources. All public services, and all public servants, deserve respect.

I do have a very specific concern with the cuts proposed by the Planning and Building Department. A position eliminated is admitted in the staff report to have the following consequence: "Eliminating this position would prevent the county from administering the countywide water conservation programs." Among the efforts at stake are multiple programs affecting, among others, the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin: ag offsets, plumbing retrofits, cash for grass, enforcement of violations of the Urban/Rural Water Waste Prevention Ordinance, outreach and education, etc. The Department of Water Resources has received a Groundwater Sustainability Plan promising a firm commitment to such programs. We have a legal and moral obligation to live up to those commitments. Please find some other place in the Department of Planning and Building to cut; adding a few days to the time required for plan checks or certain permits would be inconvenient, but not nearly as draconian in its effects as abandonment of water conservation efforts promised to the state and affirmed as necessary to bring a problematic groundwater basin back into compliance, and to prevent the public health and safety threat of wells running dry.

Many thanks,

Eric Greening

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