

Letter: Where do we go from here?

October 5, 2022



Although the county budget workshop was not about measure R, I was literally disgusted and sick to my stomach as I listened to each department head speak about what they needed to make their department run more efficiently.

Each department who received new employees is not going to fix the actual problem that exists and the county refuses to acknowledge. The computer systems in each department are so old it does not serve the public or the employees. Yes computer programs change every six months, but when the system is years old there is an issue.

The dispatch computer from the sheriff's office is 27 years old. Officers cannot get immediate rap sheets or license number information. This should be alarming to the public. Yet measure R was spent on \$300-500 per month raises. Raises are deserved, don't get me wrong, but where were the oversight committees and why wasn't the most necessary components fixed before handing out money the county can't afford in the long run?

The Probation Department needs a HAVAC system. The cell doors have electricity issues. Not dealt with by the Measure R money at all. In fact this county is so inept it has taken several months just to replace a commercial dishwasher. A job still uncompleted.

The Ag Department hired three new employees instead of receiving equipment for weights and measurements which the county now has to pay another county to do the work. Measure R gave them new employees, but the Ag Department and dog pound are without and virtually dysfunctional.

Three supervisors didn't want to hear the issues - Gerry Hemmingson, Chris Howard, and Darrin short. Apparently if you don't know the real issues, in their minds, then they don't exist. But they do. The Best thing that Valerie Starkey and Sue Masten did was give the public the real 411 by providing this very informative workshop.

Where do we go from here? Do we repeal Measure R and start over with getting a ½ cent sales tax with a sunset date to make sure that the real needs of the county are getting met? Or do we continue to keep Measure R, which contributes to an unfunded pension liability and complete failure of this county to maintain absolute necessities to run a county?

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