

Placer's Katrina...

continued from page 1

of services left much to be desired, especially should a toxic danger arise in the future where minutes or hours, not days, response would be vital.

For example, on the evening of Thursday, January 3rd, the wind and rain storm felled a tree in Meadow vista, blocking the roadway, knocking down a power pole and leaving about 700 feet of powerline on the ground and road. Local residents called PG&E and Placer County Administration on Friday morning to relate the situation.

PG&E did shut off the power line but did NOT notify the County. Placer Public Works came to the scene but would not touch the fallen tree since the power line might be hot—so they went home. On Saturday a series of PG&E people arrived at the scene and deliberated over who should remove the fallen tree so they could replace the pole and string new wires. This was repeated on Sunday and through midday on Monday. Meanwhile, nothing happened to fix the problem.

If this were a toxic chemical disaster/attack, lives would have been lost if delays lasted more than hours. County CEO Tom Miller should convene a meeting with all critical agencies—fire, police, PG&E, etc. and set up a crisis management system that works, with a chain of command that can adapt to situations as they happen. "Send in the clowns—don't bother, they're here."

- Wally Reemelin

It is amazing that our government can track a cow born in Canada almost three years ago, right to the stall where she sleeps in the State of Washington. They even tracked her calves to their stalls. But they are unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around our country. Maybe we should give them all a cow.

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*Firms spend millions of dollars
To give them an image that's classy,
But it can be hopelessly tarnished by
One phone operator who's sassy.*

- George O. Ludcke

...

*Even tasty ragouts when left over,
Can be served so often, in my view,
That this once-tempting dish now produces
A feeling of deja stew.*

- Edward F. Dempsey

Assessor...

continued from page 1

Galleria or property developers such as Shea Homes can be complex when quasi ownership may be shifted within corporate divisions. Is it a sale or not? If so, Prop 13 allows reappraisals upwards.

A turf dispute arose between the Assessor and the Assessment Appeals Board over procedure that involved the County Auditor as well. There were conflicting agendas. Meetings with the County Counsel's Office, together with all parties, resolved the matter. Perhaps another intervening factor was that two members of the Appeals Board were previous candidates for the office of Assessor.

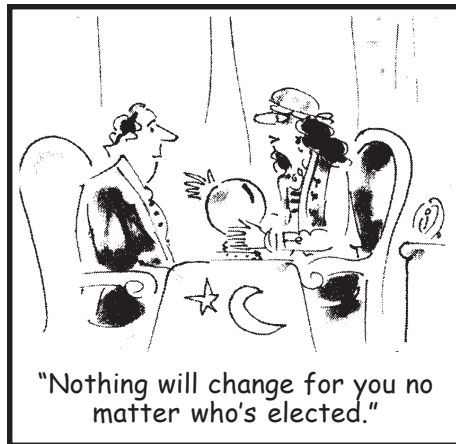
Critics of the reached settlement suggest that statutes of the State Board of Equalization were not followed—laws were breached, in other words. This is quite difficult to resolve legally as some of the tax laws, as written, have conflicting sections, perhaps a measure of sloppy legislation. So, interpretation of the intent of the tax laws draws differences of opinion.

The Assessor's Department has about 80 employees of which 25-30 are appraisers. The appraisal and assessment work is complicated due to legislative tinkering with the tax and property laws. One law the Assessor would like to see repealed is the "Supplemental Assessment" Statute. It is cumbersome and costly to process and is therefore not cost effective.

Should the Grand Jury involve itself in these allegations perhaps more definitive results may be obtained. The Grand Jury may use subpoena power to have more testimony. The Grand Jury usually gives an indication of its interest in the Fall of the year. Until then, we wait and see.

As for his departments critics, Mr. Dear suggested that they may be disgruntled or disappointed employees.

- Wally Reemelin



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U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D): Hart Senate Office Building, Room 331, Washington, D.C., 20510-0505. Phone (415) 393-0707, Email: senator@feinstein.senate.gov.

U.S. Representative John Doolittle (R): U.S. House of Representatives, 2410 Rayburn House Office Building #2410, Washington, D.C. 20515-0504, (202) 225-2511, Fax (202) 225-5444, www.house.gov/doolittle.

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District 1: Rocky Rockholm

District 2: Robert Weygant

District 3: Jim Holmes

District 4: Kirk Uhler

District 5: Bruce Kranz

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