

## Comments on CIP budget 2018-2019

After attending the budget meeting on May 16 and careful consideration, these are Sue Rodman's comments and suggestions for Placerville's Capital Improvement budget for fiscal year 2018/2019:

Conrad Sewer Line Replacement – Coloma St to Cottage St: Water line replacement needs to be included in this project. The water line is very old, very likely leaks, and it will be much more efficient to tear this up once and do the water line at the same time.

Lions Park: My impression is that the system of keys for the tennis courts are not paying for their upkeep, and probably will not do so in the future, even if the courts are rehabbed. If true, my suggestion would be to remove the tennis courts and supplement the high school budget to maintain their courts for public use. I suspect the high school would be grateful to receive much less, maybe \$10,000 or less annually. It would save the city budget \$66,000 in the short term as well as ongoing maintenance costs in the longer term. The cost to remove the courts should be much less than \$66,000, and may be able to be done by city crews.

Gold Bug Park: This is Placerville's Gold Star Park, it is voted the best place to take visitors every year in the Mtn Democrat "Best of" survey. To keep it well-loved and a feature to be proud to take visitors, it needs to be kept in gold star conditions. Every item on the list is a necessity, and most are public safety or security concerns. Let's put our money where our high value assets are, and fund Gold Bug Park items as originally listed.

Lumsden Park: This is Placerville's least used park and it has intractable problems. The city has poured money into this park over the years without corresponding realized benefits. It is time to get real about Lumsden Park, it is a money pit. I say close it, remove the playground equipment, and sell the land. Save the city the \$87,690 requested here, or use it in Gold Bug.

Orchard Hill Playground: Install the Lumsden Park playground equipment here, and show the Orchard Hill residents that the city cares about them, and not just for their assessment money. It would be a way to garner some good will from the Orchard Hill neighborhood. If the equipment is further vandalized, notify the neighborhood and remove the equipment.

El Dorado Trail: The listed drainage & surface maintenance need to be done to keep the El Dorado Trail useable and safe for the public, as well as discourage unlawful use. Sections of the trail that are well maintained receive more use, and that also discourages unlawful use.

Old City Hall: Another money pit, but if the City is going to keep it, then fix the roof while it can still be fixed, and replace the front door to make the building secure. Or, do what some other places have done, sell it for \$1 with conditions that it be restored and put to use. I don't know what the Taylors paid for their buildings, but they have worked miracles with those. There may be someone who would like to take on Old City Hall for a similar project with the right price.

Town Hall: At least fix the roof before it causes major structural problems, and replace the carpet. Duct tape is for emergency holding things together, not carpet replacement. The painting could be deferred to next year.

Police Dept: If the city wants its police officers to see they are valued, and to be able to function, the parking lot must be rehabbed, and for heaven's sake put gutters on the carport! If we can donate \$5,000 to the Gold Panning Championships & \$5,000 to the Amgen tour, we can put \$5,000 into gutters to keep our police officers from getting soaked in the rain.

Park & Ride: Put up a fence that cannot be cut! This is a very visible entrance feature for Placerville, and needs to be maintained as such. When it looks shabby – as it does now – it invites illegal loitering and drug dealing. It seems to me that the Park & Ride has been deferred to the point where the roof now needs replacement, and the exterior looks like it belongs in the slums, not as a gateway to our beloved Placerville.

Aquatic Center fence: This is another Placerville asset that needs some attention. There is a major investment in the Aquatics Center, and it requires ongoing maintenance to remain a valuable asset. We just had an Eagle Scout project to improve the face work below the fence, the City needs to support that and paint the fence. Like other attractions, it needs to look attractive for people to want to use it. Let's face it, a paint job is much less expensive than replacing the fence.

Parking Structure Restriping: **ABSOLUTLEY** do this! There may currently be 20 "compact" spaces, but they are so compact that they are not useable for most cars rated as compact. IF you can squeeze into one, good luck opening the car door. It is far better to have 12 additional standard spaces that are useable than 20 horrible, unusable "compact" spaces. Both my vehicles are classed as "compact" and I cannot open the door on either one in the current "compact" spaces; it is both irritating and frustrating to see those unusable and often empty spaces and not have a useable space to park and patronize one of our downtown merchants.

Orchard Hill LLMD update study: After you move the play equipment from Lumsden park to Orchard Hill, the people in that neighborhood may be more open to increasing their fees. Meanwhile defer this one.

Tetrault Parking Lot Retaining Wall Repair: This needs to be done **before** the entire wall collapses and takes Quartz Alley with it. This is probably the highest priority for Parking District Fund projects.

Scout Hall: This is another cute little Placerville attraction in danger of becoming an eyesore. Either fix it or tear it down.

Those are my comments,

Susan A. Rodman, Placerville resident, customer, & taxpayer