

There also is rural cleansing in the Klamath Basin

By Larry Kogan

There also is rural cleansing in the Klamath Basin.

It is hidden behind a program previously discussed known as the "Farm Leaseback Program."

Not much was mentioned about this program publicly from 2010-2015 because it was highly controversial. Nevertheless, it was preferred by many to the "Land Idling Program" alternative which would pay farmers not to farm in dry years, and which the former CEO/President of the now-defunct intergovernmental Klamath Water and Power Agency ("KWAPA") stated would provide farmers inadequate income.

We found mention of it in a newsletter floating around on the internet from the KWAPA.

The hallmark of the program is the federal buyout of farms on the federal Klamath Irrigation Project to make way for the massive tribal water rights settlement the administration is pushing in the Klamath Basin spanning southern Oregon and northern California. After the farms are purchased, the feds would lease back the lands to the mostly large farm operators during good hydrological years and leave the land sit idle during drought or low water years. Small farmers would not have the financial capability to survive in this environment, which would result in their owners leaving rural communities for more populous areas.

The nonprofit Institute for Trade, Standards and Sustainable Development (ITSSD) exposed this program yesterday in a filing with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission targeting 5 former board members of the Klamath Irrigation District, a local government public body operating on the Project. Our documents are available online via the local newspaper's reporting of the filing. There are handwritten forms showing the objects of the complaint, the complaint and a summary doc containing all supporting exhibits.

See: http://www.heraldandnews.com/news/local_news/new-kid-ethics-complaint-lodged/article_0d6cd91b-a0a1-5956-8f19-7b200dc041c3.html

The level of corruption exposed is quite disturbing since it is tied to the attempt of the accused to get their hands on the federal monies at any cost.

Last week, the ITSSD filed a complaint with the Oregon Secretary of State Elections Division against these same individuals presenting evidence that they are exploiting a loophole in the law to make false statements against the majority board members of the Klamath Irrigation District in order to secure their recall from office today.

Apparently Oregon has a discriminatory election law that protects public officials subject to recall from false statements if they are state, county and city officials, but not if they are local public officials. An irrigation district in Oregon is a local public body whose officials are not eligible for the protections afforded by state law against false statements.

As the result, the three good men subject to recall from the Klamath Irrigation District have had to endure an ongoing assault/barrage of fraudulent and misrepresented statements and biased media articles for several months now. The Herald and News is nothing more than a communist gazette promoting the views of those who favor federal government welfare programs of the sort I have described.

These are good people who need help from citizens located outside the county who are outraged by the corruption. That is why the ITSSD intervened pro bono and without the knowledge of the patrons - it was the right thing to do.

The local paper wrote up the elections complaint filing here:

http://www.heraldandnews.com/members/two-kid-recall-election-complaints-filed/article_851681a2-a4dd-5af8-a38e-61f312585436.html

I have attached the summary sheets from both filings for your review. They contain access to the complaints and all supporting exhibits.

Perhaps, you all have information about your local corruption that could be made actionable by similar filings?

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Telling On Themselves: Rural Cleansing in Idaho and Montana

<http://www.thedailyherb.com/telling-on-themselves-rural-cleansing-in-north-idaho-and-montana/>