

PUBLIC COMMENT --- for CVWD Board Meeting on 6/22/2021 (from Marilyn Tyler)

RE: CVWD Board President Sharon Raghavachary Illegally Attempts To Suspend Community Advisory Committee

At the previous CVWD Board meeting on June 8, Board President Sharon Raghavachary abruptly announced she was suspending the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) until July.

I did not believe President Raghavachary had the authority to do this, and CVWD later confirmed my opinion---President Raghavachary has NO authority to suspend the Community Advisory Committee because the CAC was not created by her or the Board. It is another interesting legal question whether the Board President can unilaterally suspend ANY committee, and what does "suspend" even legally mean.

But these legal questions apparently did not trouble President Raghavachary, because she arrogantly and impulsively announced she was suspending the CAC without first verifying she had the power to do so. Perhaps in a previous life President Raghavachary was able to declare martial law and suspend things like elections and the CAC, but not in this one.

Why was it so important to President Raghavachary to suspend the CAC from June 9-30, 2021--- what is happening in this period? CVWD Staff is preparing a draft Prop. 218 Notice to present to the Board on June 22, 2021. So this is EXACTLY the time when comments and suggestions from CAC members can have the greatest impact. The Community Advisory Committee was expressly created to work with CVWD on financial issues such as budget, funding and rate-setting. The CAC members were looking forward to working with Staff on the Prop. 218 Notice, and were already preparing their individual responses to the proposed 3-year schedule of rate increases.

So why did President Raghavachary want to shut down the CAC during this crucial period? Did she believe that comments from CAC members provided little value-added, they were essentially worthless and so shut the whole thing down? (To show what a low opinion President Raghavachary appears to hold about the CAC, at this week's CVWD Finance Committee meeting I brought up two concerns which had previously been expressed by CAC members Burt Culver and Jonas Williams. When Director Raghavachary heard what I had to say, she asked, "How did you find out about this, on Nextdoor?" No, I heard about this through the Community Advisory Committee. Does that surprise you, Director Raghavachary? That the CAC is actually DOING something? That CAC members are actually asking intelligent, pertinent questions?)

Or was President Raghavachary's intent more ominous---was President Raghavachary actively attempting to PREVENT information about the new Prop. 218 Notice from getting out into the community at this time, by shutting down the CAC which is made up of community members? Just in case this was President Raghavachary's intent, I have notified the larger Crescenta Valley community, via NextDoor and the Crescenta Valley Weekly, that a Prop. 218

Notice is being prepared which will propose a 3-year schedule of rate increases for the first time.

There is no positive way to interpret President Raghavachary's illegal attempt to suspend the CAC until July. Even if it is just an arrogant display of muscle-flexing --- i.e. President Raghavachary did it because she wanted to show the world she could --- this action raises concerns about abuse of power in someone who is impulsive, self-serving and demonstrates poor judgement.

CONCLUSION: CVWD Board President Sharon Raghavachary has, by illegally and impulsively attempting to suspend the Community Advisory Committee until July:

- [1] Insulted the intelligence and commitment of CAC members,
- [2] Damaged the public reputation of CVWD by causing it to appear that CVWD is attempting to withhold information from the larger community,
- [3] Cast doubt on the fitness of Director Raghavachary to continue to serve as Board President.