

Distortions of the Fultz Slate in the San Lorenzo Valley Water District Board of Directors Election.



Infrastructure Improvements | Rate Increases

Distortion The Fultz slate accuses the board of putting infrastructure “on the back burner” and “working on lawsuits instead of pipes, pumps and tanks.” It states there have been “endless rate increases” to cover costs of “legal woes, salary increases, staffing increases, depletion of reserves, with very little targeted to infrastructure.”

Facts Infrastructure needs are the board’s top priority. Substantial improvements and upgrades have been completed – and many more are already on the way. Secure funding has guaranteed sound financial footing and enables the District to replace decaying infrastructure and stop deficit spending inherited from previous boards. Projects completed, in process, and scheduled include: Replaced Bull Creek pipeline; repaired leaks system-wide; repaired Fall Creek fish ladder; rehabilitated Paso 7 well; replacing Probation, Swim, and seven other major tanks; replacing Pasatiempo 8 well; repairing/ replacing six major pipelines.

Glyphosate

Distortion Fultz et al. accuse the board of recklessly “continuing” to use glyphosate; their supporters claim that the district is spraying the chemical throughout the watershed.

Facts The board, based on consideration of public concern and review of environmental protection expert reports, authorized the use of one cup of glyphosate in each of two years. It was dabbed on specific French Broom stumps that had been hand cut as the only feasible approach to protecting the 40-acre sensitive Olympia Watershed sandhill habitat. Hand-removal is illegal because of the disturbance to endangered species; no contamination of groundwater has been detected. The Fultz slate has offered no alternative plan for preserving the sandhill habitat.

Holloway vs. Vierra Lawsuit

Distortion Fultz et al. blame the current board for not settling the Vierra lawsuit (a former board member) and for wasting ratepayer money defending him. They imply that Vierra acted corruptly.

Facts The trial court ruled Vierra committed a technical violation resulting from incorrect legal advice from the District's former attorney. It found no corruption. The current board, which inherited the lawsuit from the previous board, has retained new, competent counsel; the district had a legal obligation to represent Vierra. Holloway — not the District — has refused to participate in mediation, the appropriate vehicle for settling a claim that involves a \$9,000 realtor commission.

Commitment to the Environment

Distortion The Fultz slate claims it is “environmentally friendly”, citing its misleading assertions on glyphosate. The slate promises to cut the District's watershed education and data collection/restoration grant programs, claiming a savings of \$200,000, because it is wasteful and not part of the district's core mission.

Facts The Fultz slate has little interest or expertise in the environmental protection or the environmental programs and agendas of the District; environmental issues are not even mentioned on its website beyond the Glyphosate issue. By contrast, the incumbent slate considers watershed protection, planning for climate change, and protecting our aquifers to be critical agendas and has a strong record of accomplishment. The grant program Fultz et al. propose to cut costs a modest \$13,000- \$20,000 per year (about .2% of the district's budget) in grants to research scientists, educators, and students, among others. The program only funds programs in the district and provides valuable information regarding environmental stewardship that could cost much more if paid for through a contracting process. It also encourages widespread volunteerism and promotes environmental education. The Fultz slate's \$200,000 figure is misleading: it includes all program expenditures since its inception in 2003.