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Rose report is full of hooey; spend your cash in Redlands

Redlands Daily Facts

The Redlands City Council funneled \$25,000 through the Chamber of Commerce so the Rose Institute of State and Local Government could create a propaganda tool to attack the managed-growth measure that voters will consider in the November election.

The first section of the report does not focus on the measure. The first section contains a weak analysis of city finances. While the section contains 45 numbered pages, blank space is found that equals approximately 21 pages in the section. The content on the remaining 24 pages is often irrelevant and inconsistent.

The second section contains eight pages of foolish speculation regarding the fiscal impact of the requirements of Measure P. More importantly, crucial aesthetic and environmental considerations are not mentioned at all.

The authors of the report clearly misunderstand the relationship of the "doughnut hole" to the city, and grossly overstate the amount of sale-tax revenue that the hole has generated.

The report supports tacky commercial signs that would advertise the auto mall on the north side that Majestic Realty plans after encouraging automobile dealers to move out of the heart of our town.

The authors apparently dislike any requirement that might prevent the City Council from cramming streets with traffic, fouling the air, lowering water quality, creating noise pollution, destroying specimen trees and reducing open spaces.

I agree with the report's warning that Redlands is in serious financial difficulty. Redlands will face a substantial deficit in 2006-07 whether the managed-growth initiative is enacted or not. What do the authors recommend to save the city from the overspending that Redlands has experienced during the terms of Mayor Gilbreath, Mayor Haws and Mayor Pepler?

The report supports the classic political strategy: promise more than can be delivered, and then hope that citizens forget who caused the problems that result.

This approach would please selfish and greedy developers and bankers who wish to cover every inch of Redlands with high-rise apartment buildings, houses, warehouses, factories and businesses to fatten their wallets.

The approach will not please taxpayers who understand that responsible spending should take the place of unbridled development. Wise taxpayers should vote to approve Measure P.

The Rose report correctly notes that sales tax revenue is an important source of income for any town. I agree that Redlands should seek ways of capturing more of the sales tax revenue that is generated by its citizens.

I propose a simple approach. People who deeply care about our town should shop in Redlands and not in the county at Majestic Realty's Citrus Plaza. Shopping in Our Town instead of the "doughnut hole" would increase Redlands' sales tax share on every purchase by an impressive and helpful 10 percent.

Shopping in our town instead of in such cities as Riverside and Rancho Cucamonga would increase Redlands' sales tax share on every purchase by a whopping 100 percent.

Contribute to Redlands by shopping in Redlands!

Mike E. Haverty

Redlands