

Dear Mr. Cervantes:

First, my congratulations to you on your election and swearing in as Supervisor. I know that such a position can be both rewarding and thankless. I hope that you get most of the former and little of the later. I certainly hope that I cause you no difficulty.

The reason for this email is that I own a five acre piece of property in your district, a piece of property that is my slice of heaven.

While there were many reasons for property in this location, the most important of the decisions was the ability to access the hot springs in adjacent Tecopa. A nice resource, no matter what my day was like while in the area, I could always count on visiting the pools for a quiet soak, either with just a few present or completely alone. My mountain home of Downieville (pop 365) has benches in its historic downtown where locals (mainly older men) can hold court, and I would submit to you that the county springs in Tecopa were no different, a place where those who wish could hold court and discuss the days or world's events. My tradition for the past few years, both before and after buying the property (earlier stayed at Delights) was to visit the springs late at night so that either I could have total solitude, or visit or listen to such interesting discussions, whether they be local, state, national, or international. Such visits allowed use away from crowds, when the day is coolest, and way away from splashing kids in the water.

While I know from my home county of Sierra that public finances are tight, I understand the decision to attempt to reduce the obligation of Inyo County in this operation by turning to a concessionaire, and am not even particularly troubled by the admittance fee. I am troubled, however, by the decision to allow the concessionaire to padlock the springs at 9 pm nightly so that they can be serviced, and also be privately used by the concessionaire's employees. While an email from the concessionaire advised me that they are closed due to 'liability', I am having difficulty understanding how liability is any different after 9 pm then it is before 9 pm. I have heard from county representatives that the loss history under 40 years of county operation has been minimal to none.

Before writing you this email, I wrote Supervisor Dorame and CAO Mendez letters last fall, both letters of which went unacknowledged. I have, however, had two very positive telephone conversations with Mr. Mendez, and very much appreciate his consideration and understanding shown to me on the phone. Conversely, I contacted Mr. Dorame by phone about a week ago, and let me just say I can understand possibly why you are now representing this area in that he was abrupt and challenging to me on the phone. I also spoke with County Park's manager Chuck Hamilton on the phone today, also a nice conversation in trying to understand how this situation has gotten to this point.

While I have a lot of different stories, questions, and comments to share with you on this subject should you wish to hear them, the bottom line is that I appreciate this resource and would like to try to make sure that you and your colleagues understand what an important resource the springs are to this area of the county, an area that has few other such resources. I hope that you can somehow assist to try and return some of its previous

operational options, most importantly being to me it's extended hours of operation. While I am sure that you have or will hear from others on many other issues regarding the springs and campground, my only strong issue is that it remains the most available it can, whether it be free of charge, or by fee.

I have probably made this email far longer than is polite in attempting to converse with you on this subject, especially in your first week as a supervisor. If and when you get the chance to think about this issue, I would certainly be appreciative to hear from you with any ideas or thoughts you might have on this subject. And should you wish to hear more of my thoughts, I would be pleased to share them and try to assist you with a more workable operation of the springs to please most in the community.

Most sincerely, and again, congratulations.

LEE ADAMS
Downieville, and Shoshone, CA