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Audit XIX - Fund 35 Mitigation Fees

Fund 35 spent \$24 Million in the last 2 1/2 years, but went unnoticed by the GAAP Auditors

Posted by [Libi Uremovic](#), April 25, 2013 at 04:39 pm

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vendor summary

CITY OF BEAUMONT
FUND 35
VENDOR SUMMARY

	2011	2012	2013	
altura roofing			\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00
arrow mechanical		\$101,520.00	\$11,880.00	\$113,400.00
beau electric		\$53,691.00	\$28,924.17	\$82,615.17
Beau-ch valley	\$22,780.93	\$0.00		\$22,780.93
castaneda & ass	\$4,045.00	\$0.00		\$4,045.00
christensen bro eng			\$54,912.19	\$54,912.19
community bank	\$194,326.34	\$302,892.47	\$0.00	\$497,218.81
consol elect dist		\$12,747.74	\$0.00	\$12,747.74
dept fish & game		\$2,101.50	\$0.00	\$2,101.50
elite companies us	\$361,319.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$361,319.32
harmsworth ass	\$29,568.00	\$11,186.00	\$9,081.00	\$49,835.00
hillcrest contracting	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
los ang auditor/control		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
los angeles enginrg	\$3,505,724.10	\$44,043.41	\$0.00	\$3,549,767.51
mamco inc	\$105,220.56		\$0.00	\$105,220.56
mcgraw-hill co		\$1,884.00	\$990.00	\$2,874.00
mission elect supp		\$5,281.81		\$5,281.81
natures image inc	\$75,951.27	\$57,738.14	\$21,642.95	\$155,332.36
phoenix environmenta		\$8,725.00		\$8,725.00
quality plumbing	\$4,200.00	\$0.00		\$4,200.00
r moody const	\$154,595.68	\$273,764.37	\$29,192.94	\$457,552.99
rbf consulting	\$14,587.98	\$0.00		\$14,587.98
riv land conservancy	\$315.00	1320.13		\$1,635.13
state water resou cont	\$66,640.00	0		\$66,640.00
the press-enter	\$518.90	\$285.60	\$275.10	\$1,079.60
trench plate rental co			\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
tyner paving co	\$472,803.90	\$0.00		\$472,803.90
urban logic	\$4,034,436.60	\$3,089,819.84	\$1,751,128.86	\$8,875,387.30
us archit light/so coast	\$22,376.57	\$34,764.00		\$57,142.57
union pacific	\$83,964.61	\$1,682.25		\$85,646.86
unknown	\$1,850.00			\$1,850.00
				0
				0
	\$9,255,228.76	\$4,003,447.26	\$1,911,577.21	\$15,170,253.23

Mitigate means 'to lessen the impact'. Beaumont Budget describes Fund 35 as: "used to account for the revenues levied on new development projects within the City. The revenues are levied based on development impact fees studies adopted by the City Council and include street, bridge, fire station, emergency facilities, parks, etc."

2010 – 2011 Budget list Mitigation Fees Fund had a \$12 Million Fund Balance on 06/30/10, Revenues are listed at \$2.2 Million and Expenses at \$13 Million leaving a Ending Fund Balance of \$1.2 Million on 06/30/11.

2011-2012 budget lists Mitigation Fees Fund Beginning Balance at \$600,000, total Revenue at \$501,000; and total expenses at \$1 Million leaving a

06/30/12 Ending Fund Balance of \$101,000.

2012-2013 Budget lists Mitigation Fees Beginning Fund Balance at Zero (\$0). Revenue and Expenses are both estimated at \$501,000 to leave a zero Ending Fund Balance. Over \$3 Million has already been funneled through this account.

Beaumont's Budget lists total expense at \$14.5 Million, but from July, 2010 to February, 2013 the General Ledger shows over \$24 Million passed through this department. The Budgets lists Department 3500 on the Special Fund Detail, but doesn't list an individual budget to show expenses. The GAAP Audit makes no reference to Mitigation Fees.

Fund 35 has spent \$20 Million that was transferred from the General Fund. In the past 2 ½ years the following expense accounts are listed:

TUMF Projects \$1,335,827.67

Potrero Bridge \$11,338,395.54

Oak Valley Pkwy \$3,581.14

650 Magnolia Bldg \$23,534.55

General Plan \$4,145.00

Mitigation Fees \$91,516.32

Basic Services & Facilities \$638,809.05

Traffic Signal Revenue \$616.00

Railroad Crossing \$633.50

Emergency Preparedness \$78,444.32

Recycling Water Facilities Fee \$3,843.65

Regional Park Fee \$4,076.72

TUMF (non CFD) \$41,575.36

Basic Services & Facilities: This was paid to Urban Logic Consultants from July, 2010 to June, 2012. The account has not been used in the current fiscal year.

Recycling Water & Regional Park Fee: The Recycling Facilities Fee was collected from October, 2011 to December, 2012. The Park Fee ran from July, 2010 to November, 2012. The collection of both fees stopped when the audit started.

Vendors: Over \$15 Million went to 30 Vendors. Of course the big winner was Urban Logic Consultants that made \$8.875 Million; Los Angeles Engineering made \$3.5 Million. Some oddities are Altura Roofing - \$1,850 and 'Hillcrest

Contracting' had a one-time payment of \$100,000.

Contract Services: According to the General Ledger the City spent \$2.5 Million on Contract Services and 'made' \$2.6 Million. Most of the magic happened in December, 2011 when \$1.15 Million was credited to the contract services account with the memo "ACH CFD 2009a".

Over \$3 Million has already been funneled through Fund 35 this year. In the past 2 ½ years this account has literally had 1,000 transaction totaling millions of dollars, but there is no mention of this fund in the GAAP Audit.

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Ken April 27, 2013 at 08:00 pm

Rubicon...

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Jeremiah Price April 30, 2013 at 12:05 am

I have to apologize to everyone - I was going to go to the BCAT meeting Wednesday but today I was scheduled by my employer to work in Hesperia from 7pm to 4am so I will be unable to go. I hope everyone else will go anyway, and I will try again for the next one. I want in particular to find out what Fund 39 is about and where the money from it went. Also why none of the audits appear to agree on balances, deposits, expenditures, and flow-throughs for all these funds which Libi has examined.

Jeremiah

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Jeremiah Price April 30, 2013 at 12:06 am

If someone was to attend the meeting and ask David Castaldo in person concerning the mortgage that was reduced, he has an explanation that holds water as far as I am concerned. It is not my place to reveal another person's business, but he was very forthcoming when we talked and offered to speak with anyone who asks. Claire is pretty close on the facts she has but there is more to the story. It wasn't controlled substances - it was environmental contamination by Sempra Energy that they finally had to clean up but which made it impossible to use the property for any purpose. It wasn't a loan - it was a sale where the City agreed to hold the paper, which is a mortgage. The reduction in principal was to cover the loss in income and money spent during the wait for Sempra Energy to clean up their mess. Sempra Energy did not notify either the city or Mr.Castaldo prior to the sale to Mr.Castaldo. There are more details I don't remember, but I am sure if anyone asks to see him as I did that he will explain it in detail. I still have many many questions on the accounting - but on this one I am satisfied that there is no attempt to defraud the public and if anything he has lost money on the deal.

Really waiting to hear on the Diner's Club invoices and see what "illegal" stuff created such a hoopla for so long? Jeremiah

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Washy April 30, 2013 at 12:10 am


a mortgage is a loan. Our city is not a bank, or loan company.

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 **Washy** April 30, 2013 at 12:13 am
Also if I buy land that has contamination on it and I don't find it I still have to pay my mortgage. Shoot the city of Beaumont let a sewer run under my house (above ground) for seven months and they yet to do a damn thing about it. This is something they are liable for, yet something they are not liable for they pay? It holds about as much water as a holey bucket does


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 **Jeremiah Price** April 30, 2013 at 01:05 am
I think since you live in Beaumont and are not willing to accept the answer that was given, you should go to city hall and ask David Castaldo yourself. Otherwise you are doing exactly what you (and I) get all over Libi about. I had no trouble talking to him - just went in and talked. He was courteous and took time to invite me into a conference room with himself and Shelby who was preparing the Diner's Club invoices. I just report what I find out - I don't say it is correct or not. I do believe the explanation I was given. You should ask for it as well. Is there any reason you can't?
Jeremiah


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 **Washy** April 30, 2013 at 08:51 am
Well I cannot do a Weds night meeting until June. But I will be asking him, and finding out why there are so many other loans to other city workers. You seem to buy the "it is not a loan" but it was a loan. If the city wasn't responsible for the "spill" (as if propane isn't so much more harmful to the area then a natural gas) why did he quit paying for the loan the city gave him. If it was my land I stupidly bought without finding out what was on it, I would have to suck it up and fight with S CA Gas....my bank who held the loan wouldn't say OOPS no worries we just won't make you pay that part EVER.....Perhaps if the bank who I got my loan from my let me defer part of my loan while I cleaned it up....but they wouldn't write it off. (see why no water held in the story) See what you forget is this has been asked and the answer has changed, and gotten ummmm more scripted over the years. You missed the days when they couldn't answer that question.

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 **Jeremiah Price** April 30, 2013 at 09:58 am
Washy - Yes, as I've said before I do not know the past of this issue or any of

the answers before. I simply know what the response was when I saw David Castaldo and that is what I have laid out. For me it was sufficient - it may not be for others closer to the situation. My intent in all this is probably much the same as yours - I really don't like to see one side of a story presented without the other - especially when one of those sides has a habit of characterizing the other as completely evil and self-serving because it keeps them in the forefront and keeps money on the table. There appears to be personal animosity to the city leaders by the person financing this "audit", and for it to be of any value whatsoever, that has to go away. Both sides need to have a voice - but the last time one of the city leaders (Roger Berg) tried to have a dialogue he was treated completely rudely by the people on this site. My purpose is to stimulate a dialogue and get both sides and compare them for reality - not just blindly accept what one side says when I already know that side has an agenda.

Jeremiah

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Jeremiah Price April 30, 2013 at 10:16 am

By the way - no one needs to wait til a Wednesday night to talk to at least Alan Kapanicas or David Castaldo - they simply need to go in to City Hall and ask for them as I did. That told me a lot and I haven't seen any other responses on this site showing that any other concerned party has even tried to find the truth or let the city leaders tell their side of the story other than Judy, whom we know has a personal beef with the city. Libi has said nothing about the attempts of David Castaldo to communicate with her. I was shown the e-mail train - David Castaldo was very polite and open in his and she replied very rudely and refused to let him have any voice. Judy hasn't said anything about her beef over a road which got put in by her place over her objections and hasn't said anything about David Castaldo's offer to revisit that issue for fairness. You hit the nail on the head about the invoices - someone was trying to create an issue - and at least to me it appeared that the city was being very cooperative. And from the volume of requests that have been fulfilled already it appears that they have been all along. One thing that all this has done - it has created almost fulltime work for Shelby and has cost the taxpayer (you as Beaumont residents) quite a sum of money fulfilling those requests.

Jeremiah

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Mark C. April 30, 2013 at 03:19 pm

What?? Now I'm confused. This guy bought some land and never used it for 10 something years, but when he finally did get around to looking at it found stuff on it? What possible loss of income or money did he have if he wasn't even using the place, and someone else paid for the cleanup? If he had argued about

finding a mess on the property right after he bought it, and was trying to build on it, I would get it maybe he lost money on not not having a place to do business. But his business is already existing elsewhere. So Jer- explain how you think he lost money on the deal if someone else paid for the cleanup on piece of property he didn't had a use for over 10 something years, and now as an added bonus he gets half off the property? Building better be underway there right now, for loss of income means he wanted to build and couldn't. If he isn't building now, this whole income claim doesn't hold water.

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Mark C. April 30, 2013 at 05:01 pm

Again, this whole beef with the city excuse. Its obvious that the city has overspent, has lousy accounting, and plays favorites. Their own paperwork is showing that. Yet when questions are asked, personnel have obviously been given the exact same memo to carry around as the official response, oh haha, everything is fine, its just someone with a beef against the city, come with me and let me tell you all about it. IMHO, it seems very unprofessional for someone who is trying to keep his own business face to face to then bring up someone else's. Did you wonder which one of those open and honest professional and courteous people you spoke to probably created the troll Karl, since he had the same memo? Someone certainly wasn't very open and professional with that little charade, were they? And record requests costing the taxpayers- bull. Cities are required to have employees perform any and all searches requested. The city charges for these documents. If they don't like it they have a choice- post their financial information online like other cities are starting to do it. Between all the creative accounting I'm seeing, any possible few bucks it might cost the city to fulfill their legal duty to supply public records requests falls under the label of money well spent. Time for them to act progressive, not just claim to be, put up pod casts, and get their audits to the controllers office. I notice that cities who have filed for bankruptcy have even beaten them to that.

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Washy April 30, 2013 at 05:56 pm

Jeremiah if you want to know David's character you can look him up here on the patch. You can find his poor attitude to the citizens of Beaumont, you can see his "other" reasons for this debt not being paid. I understand that you were easily swayed and if two bumbling idiots like David and Alan did that to you then I want to sell you your next used car!

And as far as Mr Berg goes I think you remember that crap wrong. He couldn't have been ruder to the blog if that was his intention. Just like during council meetings he is belittling and rude.

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Jeremiah Price April 30, 2013 at 06:46 pm

Mark - this isn't my fight or my thing to explain. I just went to city hall to find out the status of a request for records which certain people were saying the city was stalling on releasing. During that time I first talked to Alan Kapanicas and then a day later while I was following up David Castaldo asked me to take a few minutes with him and he explained the situation from his side of the issue. I only have reported what was said to me - I don't live in the city and I don't have a dog in this hunt and I am completely impartial. I see things that Libi has brought out that trouble me - I also know things from my time in Beaumont and from what has been said to me by many people at city hall (both leaders and support people) that reveal that several of the most vocal people on this site have personal issues with people on the council and above and are using this as an opportunity to trash the ones they don't like for personal reasons. I was told that NONE of these posters (other than Judy and myself) has ever come in to see the records or talk about their concerns. That troubles me as much as Libi's revelations. My intent is to go to the BCAT meetings and ask questions, but unfortunately my employer scheduled me for work on Wednesday night. Maybe you could go as a resident and ask this question for us? It is at 6pm Wednesday the 1st in the council chambers.

Jeremiah



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Jeremiah Price April 30, 2013 at 06:54 pm

Concerning the hazmat issue with the land - David Castaldo says he only became aware of the problem when he got the permits to put his propane tank on the property and Sempra Energy sent him a letter informing him that they were under a judgement order to clean up the property and stopped the work. Neither David Castaldo nor the city were aware of this, according to both of them. Mr. Castaldo had to pay money for another location for his business for the time it took Sempra Energy to clean it up, and several other issues arose as well. Rather than go through time and money consuming litigation over who owed who what, a reduction in purchase price or mortgage principal owed was negotiated. This was a business deal completely separate from city business and it is now being used by people who don't know and who have never taken the time to enquire about it in an effort to show wrongdoing where there was no intent. Hopefully you are not one of that crowd and simply have questions which should be answered as I did. I took the time to go get answers and then report those answers. That doesn't mean I am defending anyone or anything. If there is an illegality then it needs to be exposed and brought to court - if it can't be shown to be illegal then people need to shut up and let us have our paper back for real news.



Jeremiah Price April 30, 2013 at 07:08 pm

Washy, you are completely wrong to intimate that I was swayed by anyone. I do not know them and don't base my judgement of people on what other people say about them. What if I listened to what Libi and Judy say about you? I simply reported what I was told - that neither means I agree with it nor disagree with it. My feeling is it was a rational and reasonable explanation until and if I find out differently. And all I said about character is that I was treated openly and with respect - beyond that I cannot make a judgement because I don't know these people or the history behind the issues. What I read was David Berg trying to give answers to allegations and getting dumped on - sorry, that is not my interpretation, it is in print. How he is at council meetings or otherwise I do not know. So leave me out of all this name-calling and s-sliding - as far as I know I am the only one who has actually taken the time to attempt to find both sides of the issue and find true answers. You and Mark and others can more easily do the same - you live there. Talk is cheap - I want to see people do something about it - and that means fairly giving voice to each side and then prosecuting illegal actions which are found. So far I see no interest in that by anyone here - only an interest in having a forum to feel big and talk s**t. Now, does that resolve your issue with me reporting what was said or are you simply wanting to fight with someone?

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Jeremiah Price April 30, 2013 at 07:24 pm

Mark, I agree with you about the financial improprieties that Libi has revealed. What is even more troubling is that even the required audits don't agree. Creative accounting is exactly the right word for it. And who is Karl? Was he before my time? As far as record requests costing, the only thing that is charged is the cost of the copies - not the wages of the person spending the time making them available. The city has someone trained to do that - but she has other work as well. Not a big issue in the big scheme of things, but it does add to the workload and hence the expense.

The other accusations of overspending, lousy accounting and favorites are all things which happen in every city government. As morally reprehensible as that is, it has not yet been shown to extend to illegality, and that is what is needed to correct it. All this name calling and accusations bordering on slander/libel if they are not true doesn't accomplish that - it only makes the testimony of the ones making the accusations unuseable in court. Illegality and intent are what need to be established. But you don't do that by posting accusations in obscure newspapers - you do it by going and finding out and picking the battles you can

win. You obviously don't know me and haven't read many of my posts - I am just as suspicious as anyone, but I am trying to weed out the real "criminal" issues from the typical small town name-calling conflicts. Jeremiah

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 **Washy** April 30, 2013 at 07:29 pm

You are not the only one who has tried to get answers. There is a reason Mr Berg is known for turning off the mike during public comments/questions. You are just coming to this in the middle. My point remains the same...It is my tax dollar that David is using for his "mortgage" It is my investment that the city is "holding the papers for" It is not right for the loan to be dissolved by the city so David didn't have to fight S CA GAS (which was the name of the company at the time does that tell you how long this has been going on and he just recently started paying again) BUYER BEWARE the judgement is/was public record where was the professionals in real estate who find the liens, judgements etc on property before a sale? OH that is right it was a dirty backdoor deal done behind the citizens of Beaumont's back IF it was how you say "a decrease in principal" then he would have been making payments for the years he never paid one dime on it. It was a refusal to pay and the city saved face recently by writing off most of the loan. BTW I didn't call you any names I made an assessment on the ability of cons to con you and you got got! (they found someone to play the shell game with and you lost)

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 **Jeremiah Price** April 30, 2013 at 08:27 pm

I'm sorry you think I am so stupid. I wonder how I ever got this old and ran 3 companies and fought with the Federal Government as part of my job for 10 years without help? Maybe Alzheimer's has struck. You have many grievances about this issue - have you talked to David Castaldo about them personally face to face? It would seem to me that would be the correct thing to do before being a Libi. I'm a little puzzled - I took you for one of the sane ones on this site who understood fairness and proper due process - which neither side here appears to think matters. I am not questioning your view of either David Castaldo or Alan Kapanicas or Roger Berg - simply stating what happened to me. Your experience with them has obviously been different than mine. Have a great evening - I'm stuck going to work myself. But that's better than not having work to go to, isn't it?!!

Jeremiah

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Washy April 30, 2013 at 08:46 pm

Seriously don't twist my words. I never called you anything. You were duped many smart people get duped. It happens, you go in meet two people they see they have "fresh ears" and believe for whatever reason they have you on their side. Come sit in back of a city council meeting you will see who David and Alan really are. But for you to try to twist what I am saying is wrong. As stated earlier YES I have talked to them myself. I have several emails between myself and Alan, myself and Keith Hightower, myself and Mr Berg. I am sure if I were to email Alan and ask him to put your story in writing he would refuse. Alan refuses to put much in writing as he is then held to it. I am one of the sane ones....really on most days I am...lol I worked love it...now off to run have a marathon this weekend.....

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Washy April 30, 2013 at 08:47 pm

I didn't mean your story as in you made it up....I meant the version they told you.....

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Ken April 30, 2013 at 09:28 pm

"the rda sold a parcel of land to a local business on 02/16/2000 "
Does anyone know for a fact that this is the parcel in question? Does anyone know when Mr Castaldo began developing and installed his 30,000 gal tank. I need exact dates if possible. ty

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Jeremiah Price April 30, 2013 at 11:29 pm

Hey, it's cool! I apologize to you - you haven't called me anything wrong and it is your right to think I am duped. I assure you I am not - I have spent many years being told stuff and I accept what is said until it is proved different - but I believe NOTHING that I have not personally substantiated, and I can't say how these people are because I have had nothing to do with them in the past. I simply said how they were to me and that I had seen communications that showed at least one of them tried to have a dialogue with Libi.

I apologize to you also for the crack about being a Libi - you are not and I have appreciated your comments in this paper more than any others because of your "sane" viewpoint and sense of fairness. So you run marathons? Way cool! God Bless or good luck (whichever fits!) in the one you are training for! Jeremiah

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Ken May 1, 2013 at 12:21 am

previously written..

"..... Neither David Castaldo nor the city were aware of this, according to both of them...." OK put it this way..the Documents dont have a side to choose between Former manufactured gas plant (MGP) demolished in 1939. The site is 0.65 acres, located near downtown Beaumont and is paved with asphalt. Site is owned by the City of Beaumont. Until the early 1980's, the City of Beaumont maintained an underground storage tank and fuel pump onsite. The staff inspected the Beaumont site on 03/10/94. The site was occupied by a charitable organization called HELP. Most of the site was paved, except the area surrounding the site. The Department issued comments on the PEA report on 03/08/94. The PEA recommended no further action, however the Department did not concur with the findings of the report. The PEA was completed in June 1994. Groundwater did not appear to be impacted. A Removal Action was recommended on a "low priority" basis. Currently in 2001, there is a propane tank business and a minor auto air conditioning servicing business onsite which is paved with asphalt.

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Jeremiah Price May 1, 2013 at 08:42 am

Thank you, Ken. This is how things need to be done - when there is a suspicion of wrongdoing you start by getting an explanation before slinging mud, and then find the facts and see if they prove or disprove the story. I have related what was told to me - unfortunately many appear to think I am standing up for it and vouching for it. Not so - I simply did the next step and got the story - now you are doing the "due diligence" which proves or disproves it.

This is interesting - it appears to be a report on the property that indicates there might be some validity to a cleanup, but it also appears to disprove that the city and David Castaldo didn't know about it or at least should have known about it. I wonder if there is anything in Sempra Energy's records indicating a clean-up or when it was completed? Kind of curious what happened between 1994 and 2001 - big space of time there. And where did Sempra Energy become involved? Did they purchase this MPG at some point in time and assume responsibility for the cleanup? These are the questions that are going to prove or disprove the story. I wish I had the ability to find facts you have - that is impressive! Jeremiah

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Washy May 1, 2013 at 10:07 am

1994-2001 a charitable organization called H.E.L.P. gave food and clothing to the towns poor. I worked on that property during those years. And the city was aware they were putting us in danger. When I think of the number of volunteers that worked there that have fought and died from cancer makes me think our

city just didn't care. BTW they leased the lot to H.E.L.P. for a dollar a year

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 **Washy** May 1, 2013 at 10:10 am

Thanks I still think you were duped but you will see.....and like Ken has already shown you the city knew about the contamination as they maintained the tanks. NE how I am training for all of them LOL no next up is OC on the 5th of May but I run about one a month.....

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 **Ken** May 1, 2013 at 10:19 am

I have all that information. Unfortunately research does not pay the bills, and I wont be able to compile and post a more comprehensive timeline with corresponding information until tonite or tomorrow.

The City can claim ignorance all it wants,. The fact that the City installed and used an underground fuel tank for years negates that claim. I've no intention of hearing Mr Castaldo's excuses and back pedaling. I have never met the man, never commented on any issues regarding him other than to say I hadnt seen his Christmas light display. when some else asked me. Here is what he had to say to me and my unanswered response. 4:10 pm on Sunday, December 23, 2012 Nice to support your views with references and personal experiences. I commend you for your support P G. Ive no problem with any and all expressing their beliefs and why. I only ask the Mr Castaldo explain why he has made the following statement about me. "To Ken: It is obvious that you have been laying off the Dew, and progressed to beverages that are much stronger. " I dont know him, Ive never spoke to him. Ive never spoke ill of him professionally, personally, or otherwise. It seems to me the very same behavior he has taken issue with, does not apply to himself or his personal standards regarding others. My personal beliefs are my own, however such disregard for others, solely for an opinion that differs from his, speaks volumes as to characte.r" This is who you are dealing with.

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 **Ken** May 1, 2013 at 10:24 am

above from

http://banning-beaumont.patch.com/blog_posts/that-bingham-lady-sure-got-a-sweatheart-deal-6416e12a Regardless the City MUST stop destroying records it deems unimportant. It is ridiculous in the electronic age and will never absolve them of their responsibility.

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Jeremiah Price May 1, 2013 at 02:35 pm

Ken -

I surely understand that about research not paying the bills, and all this is taking up far more of my time than it should too! I have to say I am very uncomfortable with representing the story I was told, as when it was told to me I had no idea of even what the conflict was about and I didn't write it down or anything. All questions about character and treatment aside, I am about fairness and fact and letting a person's own words be the deciding factor on the truth of their statements. The last thing I would want to do is make a false statement about what was said, so I am going this afternoon to see if I can nail it down a little better in my memory. I'm trying to make these posts more about fact or fiction rather than personal like and dislike of either side. I think you are doing the same and you appear to have a source of facts I haven't found yet. Personal business dealings and city business dealings are being lumped together here and that is never good. I will find out more before I speak as I don't want to accidentally misrepresent what is being said and muddy the water further. Have a good day! Jeremiah

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Ken May 1, 2013 at 03:50 pm

Do as you like. I just post what documentation that I find on the matter and let them speak. Personally, I would have no part in 3rd party explanations in these matters unless it was recorded with the consent of both parties,

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