

Arrowhead Woods Informed

An Internet Publication *serving*
Arrowhead Woods
Population approximately 10,000
Lake Arrowhead, California 92352

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Redlands Office
Of Senator Ochoa-Bogh
1758 Orange Tree Lane, Suite B
Redlands, CA 92374

Re: A Standing Request for Notice to all hearings on SB 1405.

Dear Sirs:

Garin and I have just viewed the official Senate video recording of the *Senate Governance and Finance Committee* hearing on the bill SB 1405 which was held on April 7, 2022. The link is below.

Since not one person appeared in Opposition, it is clear that none of the 10,000 property owners in the Arrowhead Woods were notified; not even the parties known to be in Opposition. The later “town hall meeting” confirmed that no one other than the bill’s sponsors and two witnesses had notice. This lop-sided presentation of this proposed bill, SB 1405, on April 7th is only about 15 minutes long. We urge everyone to watch it; and be amazed.

[https://www.senate.ca.gov/media/senate-governance-finance-committee-20220407/video?time\[senate-governance-finance-committee-20220407\]=5638.853878](https://www.senate.ca.gov/media/senate-governance-finance-committee-20220407/video?time[senate-governance-finance-committee-20220407]=5638.853878)

The AWAC, Inc. & LACSD co-sponsor presenters can be seen almost smug in their knowledge that they are pulling off a coup; they are alone at the State Capital before the Senate with their one-sided presentation of a bill allowing the new LACSD/AWAC business venture to charge property owners for managing the CCRs --- there are no objectors. Not one. You can see the salivation. It is clear sailing all the way to the finish line. It was going to be a “slam dunk”, “a duck shoot”. Or so they thought.

One of the three committee members was Senator Robert M. Hertzberg who acted as an additional proponent of the bill by calling, with surprisingly obvious, gleeful and smug satisfaction, an additional *allegedly unbiased* witness, Mr. Joseph P. Byrne. Mr. Byrne was an attorney with Best, Best and Krieger which was the law firm representing LACSD in drafting Senate Bill 1405. He is still currently the assigned attorney for the LACSD Board meetings.

The purpose of Senator Hertzberg's presentation was to establish deftly through statements and implications that the *Arrowhead Lake Association* which is in charge of "everything" around Lake Arrowhead *and that the Arrowhead Lake Association approved of the Bill.*

As you may recall, that bill gave AWAC, Inc. the right through LACSD, to tax all 10,000 properties to maintain the CCRs as they saw fit.

In this presentation you will see that the intent of the Bill was to give AWAC, Inc. the power to raise money through LACSD. It was represented that AWAC, Inc. had been in existence since 1923 and was financially destitute since it had been struggling to represent the property owners of Lake Arrowhead since 1923 with no ability to charge annual fees other than permits and fines. (*Wrong* - the original property owner management of AWAC existed from 1923 to 1986 and that original AWAC charged very few fees, limited to \$50; thereafter the *Arrowhead Lake Association* took over for four years and charge similarly minute fees if any at all; and then starting in 1990 two industrious ALA members formed AWAC, Inc. and convinced ALA to allow them to take over everything.) The foxes moved in to guard the hen house. Fees and penalties since that time have exponentially increased by this now almost universally hated organization by a factor in some cases of 100,000 percent from \$50 to \$50,000.

When Garin and I notified the Arrowhead Woods Property Owners of the passage of SB 1405, a public hearing was set by Senator Ochoa-Bogh. At that hearing the property owners rose up at arms decrying the lack of prior notice of the passed legislation and foul play. One hundred percent of the attendees demanded rescission.

As you know SB 1405 has again been reintroduced with a requested elimination of the hated provisions giving LACSD the ability to tax everyone in the Woods on behalf of AWAC, Inc.

During the last 6 months, AWAC, Inc. had gone from bad to worse. For one year it has been unabashedly running without the requisite 7 members of its board mandated by its bylaws: now it is operating with only 4 board members, three of which were unilaterally appointed by Richard Scott who himself previously resigned in writing only apparently to reinstate himself.

Again, these actions should alert the Senate to AWAC Inc.'s controversial activities and the resounding reasons behind the populace's overwhelming objection to SB 1405.

Once again, I request that the Senator and the Senate give full notice of every single hearing on the new SB 1405 bill introduced last month to all of Lake Arrowhead. LACSD has the capacity to do that with the push of a button; that fact that it is not doing so --- *should ring a loud bell.*

The April 7, 2022 hearing was a lopsided noticed travesty in which Senator Anna Caballero asked if there were any comments and/or objections only to be met with silence. The only interested persons who had notice were 1) the paid Executive Direct of AWAC, Inc., 2) the paid General Manger of LACSD (the co-sponsors with conflicts of interest) and 3) Mr. Marcus Detwiler, the Legislative Representative for the Special District Association (who as the representative for Special Districts also had potential conflict of interest and 4) Mr. Joseph Byrne, an attorney for Best, Best and Kreiger who represented one of the sponsors, LACSD.

Mr. Byrne was called by committee member Senator Robert M. Hertzberg to be a proponent for the bill. He was also asked to testify that the *Arrowhead Lake Association* is active at Lake Arrowhead. He was then was cut off by Senator Robert M. Hertzberg who stated that ALA runs "everything" having to do with Lake Arrowhead, implicitly implying that the *Arrowhead Lake Association* supported the Senate Bill 1405. Then Senator Herzberg clearly happy with himself made motion to adopt the bill. Since not one known opponent to the bill had been notified of the hearing, it passed without Opposition.

This travesty of lack of notice was not Senator Anna Caballero's fault; she evidently had been informed that notice had been given. However, whoever informed her that notice had been given to the Opposition should be investigated and their head should roll. The public deserves better particularly when their pocket books are at stake.

We are still a democracy, at least for a couple of years more.

Please notify Arrowhead Woods Informed through Garin and me (garin996@gmail.com, Theyck@yahoo.com) of all future hearings as well as, Angela Yap ayap@mountain-news.com, Director of Marketing at the Mountain News, Mary-Justine Lanyon Editor mj@thealpinemountaineer.com at the Alpine Mountaineer; Alan Kaitz, President AKaitz@ala-ca.org and Mike Pate, General Manager mpate@ala-ca.org of the Arrowhead Lake Association.

I understand that you have informed Garin that no one will be speaking for the passage of this revised new bill and that no interested person other than Senator Ochoa-Bogh should not be expected to appear or will be informed of any proceeding relative to its passage. The interested party proponents need to appear to make sure that anyone who speaks for it conveys the correct information: particularly about AWAC, Inc. Please send advance notice of any committee action that may be taken pertaining to the revised SB 1405.

LACSD maintains an almost complete email list of every person who is serviced by LACSD as well as every person who owns property in Arrowhead Wood. Giving notice is no more difficult than an employee at LACSD pushing a computer button. None of us want to see the Lake Arrowhead Public left out again.

Yours,



Garin Vartanian



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