



City of
SANTA CLARITA

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Frank Ferry
Councilmember

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September 27, 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have no idea what the various elected officials and governmental agencies of the Santa Clarita Valley have done to offend your association.

Your local lobbyist/Executive Director, Kevin Korenthal, through his campaign for public office, has launched an attack on us. Unfortunately, this is not the first time.

If I understand his relationship with your association, he is your hired representative and is tasked to represent your interests and your positions. In every recent attack, Mr. Korenthal highlights the fact that he represents ABC. Further, I understand that his campaign is endorsed by every California ABC Chapter and generously funded by the members of your organization.

Recently, Mr. Korenthal has published several attacks. One example of this:

"In these difficult economic times, it is irresponsible of the CLWA and their partners in crime to be hiding their involvement in this scam from ratepayers.

(<http://www.korenthal.com/blog/Where-is-the-CLWA-on-the-210000000-Chloride-Treatment-Facility>)

To put this into context, CLWA is our largest and a trusted public water agency. The "scam" he refers to is the "Alternative Water Resources Management Plan," and the associated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was crafted through a very open and public process by several local governmental agencies and boards in an attempt to effectively deal with requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. These agencies are continuing to work to change or minimize these requirements. The disparaging "partners in crime" term would include every Santa Clarita City Council member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich. Ironically, like Mr. Korenthal, the man he seeks to unseat on the CLWA Board (Ed Colley) has actually voted against the MOU in the open,



public meeting in which his board agreed to support their part of the plan. But this truth does not serve Mr. Korenthal's ambition.

As a lifelong Republican and conservative, I have always been dismayed at the tactics and rhetoric used by candidates who will say anything to get elected. Now, the ABC, *the* voice for "merit," has a "hired gun" who stoops to that level.

I feel compelled to point out that such baseless attacks and rhetoric are not typical of the political discourse amongst Republicans in our valley. You are ill served by your choice of a representative who lacks the integrity to confine himself to reasoned facts in forming arguments for his candidacy.

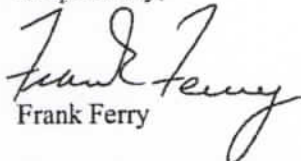
Ultimately, there is some irony in the fact that the freedom of speech that allows your organization to engage in this attack was defended by Ed Colley and his family. He is a retired Air Force Officer; one son, an Army Captain, has been deployed twice in the War on Terror; one of their daughters is a disabled Air Force veteran; another son, an enlisted Soldier, died at Fort Hood shortly after returning from Iraq. Few families have sacrificed more to defend our freedoms. The "intended" target of Mr. Korenthal's attack is one of the most honorable, and respected, leaders in our community.

Do not misunderstand – your organization and your members have the right to engage in any political discussion you wish, hire any lobbyist you feel can best represent your positions, and support him for political office. However, I too enjoy the freedom to express my distaste for the positions you have taken.

While I have long agreed with many positions taken by ABC, your employment and support of a candidate who uses such rhetoric and tactics in this local election cycle is "beyond the pale." I certainly do not agree with your apparent position that the hardworking members of the CLWA board, City Council, and County Supervisor Antonovich have somehow failed to serve the residents of this valley, and I find your arguments offensive.

I suggest that as you have already made the decision to participate in our local elections, you should support all four of the elected incumbents on the CLWA Board. All of them support free and open markets, and none of them have ever taken any public position adverse to the interests of your members. You could demonstrate this support by endorsing Ed Colley's reelection bid, and assist him in funding his campaign.

Respectfully,


Frank Ferry

CC: Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon, 26650 The Old Road, Ste 203, Santa Clarita, CA 91381
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Senator George Runner, State Capitol, Room 4090, Sacramento, CA 95814
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