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Process

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Last week at the Board Meeting I took the opportunity to say that ^{the} effort to change the GP Update Guidelines by four of the five Supervisors was a subversion of democratic process and an abuse of power.

Supervisor Fennel expressed that since it was just a straw vote, it was really okay. I would strenuously disagree.

The kind of vote it was does not matter one iota. It still represented a perversion of process. The original update guidelines were a result of robust public process, with large, open meetings and broad public input.

No matter how strongly this Board of Supervisors dislikes that outcome, if they want it changed, they must go back and recreate that public process, with sufficient notice and publicity to everyone in the county and equal weight to all input. Dancing with them what brings you may be standard political procedure but it is NOT democratic process.

At least some of the group who brought us this perversion of process are allied with those who believe that the county wasted money pursuing the Tooby Ranch case. It is indeed unfortunate that Mr. McKee's illegal subdivisions cost the county a small fortune, but that is the fault of Mr. McKee, not those whose job it is to uphold the law. If we measure efficacy of prosecution by expense, let's face it, we should just quit bothering with legal process too.

Now, forgoing both legal and democratic process might be a damn sight more efficient than adhering to both, but I believe that constitutes a dictatorship. And no matter how benevolent that dictatorship, it establishes the precedent necessary for all kinds of further abuse. Is this really where we want to go here in Humboldt County?

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