

Supervisors Shelve Report On County Building Permits

It appears the analysis of the county's building permit system done by Connerly and Associates of Sacramento will not have the promised public debate which was expected.

At the second failure of the company's representatives to show up for a scheduled hearing Tuesday, a majority of the county Board of Supervisors shelved the report by refusing to set a new date for hearing.

The Connerly firm was hired by the building trades industry through its Construction Industry Advancement Fund at a price of \$10,000 to study the county's lottery system of issuing its controlled number of building permits.

Prior to Connerly getting the contract, the county board, on a 3-2 vote with Supervisors Gary Patton and Joe Cucchiara opposing, gave its approval for a private study to be done.

At the board's vote, Patton said he felt the construction industry would only attack the county's system rather than studying it to find ways to improve the issuance of the rationed permits.

When Connerly's report was made public in November, it was criticized by county Planning Director Kris Schenk who said it contained "glaring errors."

Patton said he felt the consultants had done what he feared and only attacked the county's system.

A representative from Connerly and members of the local building trades said there may be errors in the report, but that it did contain some good recommendations to streamline the building permit system.

This week, the county board agreed to pursue recommendations that have been made by Schenk in response to the report, but would not agree to debate the report at a future session.

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