Construction Groups Send Mailers to City of Dixon Households Concerning Union-Only Project Labor Agreement for Dixon Downs Horse Racetrack

Two construction-related organizations – Associated Builders and Contractors and the Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction – have sent a mailer to households in the City of Dixon asking them to e-mail the Dixon City Council inquiring about the circumstances behind an obscure back-room Project Labor Agreement deal that requires union-only labor on the construction of the Dixon Downs Horse Racetrack.

“A deal of some sort occurred behind the scenes that gave unions a monopoly on construction of Dixon Downs,” said NAME, TITLE AND ORGANIZATION. “Unions in Solano County have been extorting developers into signing union-only Project Labor Agreements by threatening to hold up their projects with environmental objections – a tactic known as greenmail. Did greenmail happen in Dixon?”

LAST NAME also says that HIS/HER association is concerned that the union deal was announced three months after electrician union official Michael Smith took office on the Dixon City Council: “Out of the blue a horse racing trade publication announces that unions will monopolize the construction of the $250 million horse racing facility. How did this happen, and did Councilman Smith play a role in this deal? The public needs to know.”

Non-union contractors have a strong presence in commercial construction on the I-80 corridor between Fairfield and Sacramento. Project Labor Agreements increase the cost of construction projects by 15-20%, according to studies and anecdotal evidence.

Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) require all contractors – union and non-union – to sign a one-job collective bargaining agreement with construction unions. Unions have PLAs for private projects that include the Genentech expansion, the proposed Lagoon Valley development, the South Town development in Vacaville, the Sutter Downtown Hospital Expansion in Sacramento, and the Promenade at Natomas shopping center.

Associated Builders and Contractors has not taken a position on local ballot measures concerning Dixon Downs. The Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction exists to fight PLAs and does not take positions on candidates or ballot measures.