

BALDERDASH!!

Opponents of a Town of Carmel Valley sometimes say the darndest things!

Below are a few of their Hall of Fame whoppers:

- ***BALDERDASH: "\$200 million to fix our roads!!"*** This sounds ominous. Problem is, it's not true. Using the figure for deferred road maintenance for the **entire county**, opponents claim this ridiculous notion came from Dr. Lew Bauman, Chief Administrative Officer for Monterey County. Dr. Bauman's bemused response? "With that kind of money I could four-lane all of Carmel Valley Road, pave it with gold, and run a train up the middle!" Then Bauman published a letter in *The Carmel Pine Cone* (4/21/06) stating that the County spends a total of \$515,000 per year on Carmel Valley roads, and that incorporation does not change road costs. By the way, that \$200 million figure is **10 times** greater than the annual Public Works budget (which includes roads) for the **entire county**, making it our nomination for the 'mother of all whoppers' award! Let us know your vote for biggest whopper.
- ***BALDERDASH: "Incorporation means that our taxes will go through the roof!!"*** Another whopper! Here are the facts: property taxes are controlled under Prop 13, and business taxes are controlled under Prop 218. To raise either one takes a vote of the people, usually by a supermajority vote. That's why these taxes almost never go up. The Town Council will have the exact same taxing authority as the Board of Supervisors: none! Actually, if these folks wanted to get closer to the truth, they'd ask how much incorporation would lower our taxes, given the large projected budget surplus in the new Town. Sorry, that can't happen either, for exactly the same reason - but our local services will improve!
- ***BALDERDASH: "Our Fire Department is in Danger!!"*** Sorry, whether you love your fire district or hate it, you are stuck with it. Fire Districts, like school districts, park districts and any other special district, don't change with incorporation.
- ***BALDERDASH: "Sewers, sewers, everywhere!!"*** Do you believe that incorporation means the end of septic systems and the mandatory installation of sewers? We don't, either. Neither do lots of folks in incorporated towns in California, including Woodside and Portola Valley, both of which are still on septic **five decades** after incorporation. In fact, the form of local government and the level of nitrate pollution are unrelated. Moreover, neither the Board of Supervisors nor a Town Council can require sewerage - that's a sanitation district issue. Darn, nothing ruins a good whopper more than actual facts. . . .

--please turn over for more Balderdash!!

Brought to you by the Balderdash Busters at the Carmel Valley Association

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- ***BALDERDASH: "Cheek-by-Jowl Low Income Housing!!"*** These folks also say that incorporation will mandate 300-400 new affordable housing units. Oops. Another whopper! New inclusionary housing is linked to new subdivisions. If you don't build new subdivisions, then you don't build new inclusionary housing. This may be a good thing or a bad thing, but it's the truth. What they don't tell you is that Carmel Valley already hosts 279 units of publicly-owned affordable housing, which represents more than 25% of all such units in unincorporated Monterey County.
- ***BALDERDASH: "School 'busing' comes to Carmel Valley!!"*** These folks claimed that incorporation would cause River School kids to be bused to Tularcitos School. This whopper was so ridiculous it drew a letter from the CUSD, which said that "nothing could be further from the truth." Read it for yourself at www.carmelvalleyassociation.org.
- ***BALDERDASH: "Our Addresses Will Change!!"*** While these pranksters spent years whipping up fear that the 'Carmel 93923' address would change with incorporation, at least they now admit that this isn't true. We are still waiting for a public apology for misleading so many fine folks, but we won't hold our breath!
- ***BALDERDASH: "Developers Run Amok!!"*** (As if they aren't now??) According to these same jokesters, the new Town will be completely beholden to tourism-industry developers, with hotels and subdivisions springing up everywhere. Really? Would the people who actually live in Carmel Valley suddenly lose their minds and seek to pave over paradise? That's almost funny! The truth: it is the same people who fight the hardest to prevent urban sprawl and keep the valley rural - folks like LandWatch, the Carmel Valley Association, past presidents of the Big Sur Land Trust, leaders of the Sierra Club - who support incorporation, while the folks telling these enormous fibs have publicly supported the largest subdivisions facing Carmel Valley. Hey! Do you think that's why they're fibbing so much? Do they want to scare you away from incorporation? Could it be that they're afraid of local control? Could it be that their developer friends are worried that incorporation would stop the free-for-all land rush that's happening right now in the valley? Kind of makes you wonder, doesn't it?

STOP THE BALDERDASH!

SUPPORT A

TOWN OF CARMEL VALLEY!