

From: Donald Hester <DonaldH@iicm.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:09 PM
To: =yPlanningMembers
Cc: Todd Reh fuss; =yCouncil Members; Brentwood Veterans Memorial Building; support@downtownbrentwood.com; Brooke Trost; Oerlemans, Tony; Pierson, Pa'tanisha; Meyer, Susannah; Mendoza, Jovita; Bryant, Joel; Eric Angstadt; Amy Tilley; Aaron McAlister; Greg@thepress.net; burk@contracosta.news; admin@brentwoodchamber.com; Clarence Lewis; dan327ran@att.net; cigarsmokingcsm@earthlink.com; alberto kralj; Samuel Mathues (sdmathues@prodigy.net); charmadams72@gmail.com; mockdude@yahoo.com; Daniel Moses; dennis sikorski; Roy Thomas; Roy Thomas; Philip Pez Pezzella; John Wheat; DOLORES LONG; Tamara Weber; ChristineH@collerandooley.com; Nicholas Jay; Travis Martin (VFW); mikem@m3electricalinc.com; mockdude@yahoo.com; mike@gotstitches.com; Dale Satre; Clarence Lewis; info@MCLLeague.org; president@whitehouse.gov; local@bayareanewsgroup.com; jprieve@bayareanewsgroup.com; 7OnYourSideNina@abc.com
Subject: FW: Board of Supervisors, Fire Station 94
Attachments: [Letter to CCC Supervisors 1-21-25.pdf](#); [Letter to Brentwood Planning 1-21-25.pdf](#)

CAUTION – EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Members of the Brentwood Planning Commission,

We are writing to urge the Planning Commission to deny any permits related to the proposed construction of Fire Station 94 in downtown Brentwood.

The property in question was purchased using funds collected through a special tax explicitly designated for the creation of veterans' meeting places, as authorized under Section 4041f of the Political Code of the State of California (1921). The use of this property for a fire station directly violates the restrictions associated with these funds. Additionally, California Military and Veterans Code § 1266 explicitly prohibits such use of this property.

We have sent a detailed letter to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors outlining these concerns and requesting their compliance with the law. Despite this, the County is proceeding with plans for the new fire station without regard for the land's intended use. We understand that we should not have to ask the Planning Commission to block this proposal, but the County intends to continue without regard or accountability. You may refer to the email below for additional information.

The veterans and taxpayers of Brentwood deserve accountability from their local government. Allowing this project to proceed would represent a clear violation of the legal and ethical responsibilities owed to the community. You can help by denying the project and/or permits, thereby requiring the County and fire district to conduct their due diligence and select a more suitable location for Fire Station 94—one with adequate space for future expansion and better alignment with the needs of Brentwood. For the full background on this issue, please visit our website at <https://www.bvmb.org/blog>.

We respectfully ask the Planning Commission to hold the County accountable and protect the interests of the taxpayers by denying any permits for this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Board Members, Brentwood Veterans Memorial Building
Commander VFW Post 10789
Commander American legion Post 202
Commandant Marine Corps League Detachment 1155

Subject: Board of Supervisors, Fire Station 94

January 21, 2025

Board of Supervisors
Contra Costa County

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We write to you today as concerned veterans, taxpayers, and community members, deeply troubled by the planned construction of Fire Station 94 in downtown Brentwood on land that has historically and legally been dedicated to veterans' use. Additionally, we are disheartened by the continued disregard of our concerns by County staff and Supervisor Burgis.

The property in question was purchased using funds approved at the March 20, 1922, Board of Supervisors meeting. These funds, collected through a special tax under Section 4041f of the Political Code of the State of California (1921), were explicitly designated for the creation of veterans' meeting places. This commitment was made to honor the service of veterans and provide them with a dedicated space to gather and serve their community. All other uses of the property are strictly prohibited under the terms of this tax.

The presence of a fire station on this land originated with the veterans, who established a volunteer fire station to serve the Brentwood community. Over time, the county through various districts assumed control of this station and began expanding its presence on the property, encroaching further on land funded solely for veterans' use. Each subsequent expansion has violated the original intent and legal restrictions placed on this property.

The placement of a new fire station on this land, along with the transfer of title to the fire district, not only disregards the original purpose of the special tax but also wrongs taxpayers and veterans alike. The veterans of Brentwood have never abandoned this property, nor relinquished their rightful claim to its use.

We implore the Board of Supervisors to honor its commitment and uphold the law by returning this property to its rightful purpose. Additionally, we ask that the fire district conduct its due diligence and select a more suitable location for Fire Station 94—one with adequate space for future expansion and better alignment with the needs of Brentwood. There are ample properties nearby that can accommodate these requirements without violating the trust placed in the county by its taxpayers and veterans.

As veterans, we have fought to protect the freedoms and principles that make our nation great. We now ask the county to uphold those principles by rectifying this situation and honoring the commitments made to its veterans. Our voices deserve to be heard, and our sacrifices deserve respect.

We urge you to do what is right. Return this property to its original and intended purpose: a place for Brentwood veterans to gather, support one another, and serve the community they love.

Respectfully,

Board Members, Brentwood Veterans Memorial Building
Commander VFW Post 10789
Commander American Legion Post 202
Commandant Marine Corps League Detachment 1155

cc

Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller's Office
Rob Bonta, California Attorney General
Brentwood City Council

Reference:

Response to Article in Contra Costa News (27 Oct 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/response-to-article-in-contra-costa-news>

Letter from Eric Angstadt Chief Assistant County Administrator (19 OCT 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/letter-from-eric-angstadt-chief-assistant-county-administrator-19-oct-2023>

Press Coverage of the Community Meeting (12 OCT 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/press-coverage-of-the-community-meeting>

Email to County Administrator Monica Nino and Assistant Administrator Eric Angstadt (11 OCT 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/email-to>

Oct 10, 2023, Community Meet Summary (10 OCT 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/oct-10-2023-community-meet-summary>

Reply from County Administrator Monica Nino (10 OCT 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/reply-from-county-administrator-monica-nino>

Email From Council Member Mendoza (10 OCT 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/email-from-council-member-mendoza>

Letter and Community Meeting 10/10/2023 7:00 pm (6 OCT 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/letter-and-community-meeting-10-10-2023-7-00-pm>

Plans for new downtown fire station advance (The Press)

https://www.thepress.net/news/plans-for-new-downtown-fire-station-advance/article_6a817844-4d06-11ee-a429-8bf762638f1b.html

Guardians of Legacy - Honoring Veterans Through the Ages (17 AUG 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/guardians-of-legacy-honoring-veterans-through-the-ages>

Echoes of the Past: Unmasking the Source of Veterans Halls Funding (17 AUG 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/echoes-of-the-past-unmasking-the-source-of-veterans-halls-funding>

Public Comments to Board of Supervisors (15 AUG 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/public-comments-to-board-of-supervisors-15-aug-2023>

August 2023 Board Meeting

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/august-2023-board-meeting>

Gratitude to The Press and Comments (28 July 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/gratitude-to-the-press-and-comments>

County, veterans clash over downtown property Sean Tongson, Correspondent (27 July 2023)

https://www.thepress.net/news/county-veterans-clash-over-downtown-property/article_a6228d34-2c95-11ee-a0be-bbe70c01b592.html

Letter to Supervisor Burgis from Chaplain Lewis (26 July 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/letter-to-supervisor-burgis-from-chaplain-lewis-26-july-2023>

Veterans Offer Assistance to the County (24 July 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/veterans-offer-assistance-to-the-county>

What is the Brentwood Veterans Memorial Building, Inc. (BVMB)? (11 July 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/what-is-the-brentwood-veterans-memorial-building-inc-bvmb>

Chamber of Commerce Letter (7 July 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/chamber-of-commerce-letter>

Letter to Brentwood City Council (7 July 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/letter-to-brentwood-city-council>

Letter to Supervisor Burgis (6 July 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/letter-to-supervisor-burgis-6-july-2023>

Supervisor Burgis Reply (28 June 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/supervisor-burgis-reply>

Property Line History (27 June 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/property-line-history>

Setting the Record Straight (26 June 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/setting-the-record-straight>

Update From County on Property Line (21 June 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/update-from-county-on-property-line>

Email to County about BVMB Property Line (20 June 2023)

<https://www.bvmb.org/post/email-to-county-about-bvmb-property-line>



Donald E. Hester

Board Member

Brentwood Veterans Memorial Building

(925) 325-2575

Web www.BVMB.org

Veterans Hall Location 757 1st St, Brentwood, CA, United States,
94513

Mailing Address 161 Chestnut Street #20, Brentwood, CA 94513



Brentwood Veterans Memorial Building

First & Maple Streets, Brentwood, CA 94513

January 21, 2025

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Contra Costa County

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"We pledge to continue our solemn duty to dedicate this Memorial Hall as a monument for all those veterans who gave the last full measure, to honor the memories of those who have gone before and to provide for those yet to come."



Brentwood Veterans Memorial Building

First & Maple Streets, Brentwood, CA 94513

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Commander American Legion Post 202
Commandant Marine Corps League Detachment 1155

cc

Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller's Office
Rob Bonta, California Attorney General
Brentwood City Council

Mailing Address: 629 First Street #20, Brentwood, CA 94513
Physical Address: 757 First Street, Brentwood, CA 94513
Email Address: brentwoodveteransbuilding@gmail.com

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