

## Oversight needs ‘average citizens’

Regarding Fresno City Council Members Lee Brand’s and Clint Olivier’s Enterprise Capital Management and Citizen Oversight Act:

Some members of council are failing to understand residents’ distrust of their ability to properly manage our tax dollars. To sell an expensive water project and double our rates without appearing irresponsible for raising taxes, they offer a proposal that claims to protect our tax dollars and reestablish public trust and confidence. Over 40,000 households opposed the project, and the best the council could offer is oversight that disqualifies the average citizen from the process.

Instead of appointing a group of engaged, intelligent citizens with diligence to review projects and provide feedback, this proposal calls for a board of contractors to review what regular citizens are deemed incapable of understanding. Contractors ensuring on-time, on-budget projects? We’re to trust the council’s hand-picked professionals to ensure our money is spent wisely? And trust the council will then apply any savings to our rates? Where is the “public” in this oversight? How many times can we fall for cosmetic oversight? The people want and deserve inclusive government, not exclusive government.

This may help sell their vote to raise taxes, but won’t give voters oversight.

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