

Luoma, Kai

From: olga damascus <olgadamascus@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 11:36 AM
To: Luoma, Kai; LaVere, Matt; Supervisor Gorell; Supervisor Parvin; John.Zaragoza; avila@calleguas.com; jcrosswhite; MARooney; PatRichardsRPS; ssantangelo@cityofcamarillo.org; mohammedh@unitedwater.org; David; Nunez, Paul; Dunlevy, Tom; Brackpool, Chris; Towner, Tracy
Cc: Yossi Kviatkovsky; mklein4320; georgetownmom25; Leon Reingold; Ron Ziman; BCA - Judy Lantz - CSD
Subject: appropriation of BCCSD for personal interests
Attachments: letter re mchugh and 2019 csd grant.docx

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Dear Mr. Luoma, LAFCo Commissioners and VCDAs:

I am asking for your investigation into and assistance in having the VCDA pursue among other issues, Mr. Gregory McHugh for his 2019 seeming false procurement of a public taxpayer grant for \$37,275 from Cal-Fire via his appropriation of Bell Canyon Community Services District (BCCSD).

Attached is a detailed explanation of how in 2019 Mr. McHugh had no standing or authority to use BCCSD. He specifically knew BCCSD could not deal in grants or fire groups. Yet he on his own accord gave himself a false title and appropriated BCCSD to gain public grant for his private personal and then unofficial fire group.

Please, we need to stop this public fraud. We all pay so much in taxes that seeing them misused in this manner is horrifying as when will it stop? We should be using these funds for legitimate uses, not personal interests of private individuals who know how to "work the system". Cal-Fire may not want to admit it was duped into providing these funds, but that is separate from that BCCSD was appropriated in order to procure these funds. And these funds were never used by BCCSD to serve the public or returned to Cal-Fire as legally required. They were/are in the possession/control of Mr. McHugh as a private, independent citizen.

Unless we want to give each citizen \$38,000 for personal use, this must be rectified.

Thank you.
Dr. Olga Damascus

Dr. Olga Nikolic Damascus, Ph.D.

olgadamascus@yahoo.com • 1-818-635-6400

29 July 2024

RE: Gregory McHugh's unauthorized and illegal use of
Bell Canyon Community Services District for apparent self-enrichment

Dear Ventura County Authorities;

In 2019, Gregory McHugh was not in any way, shape, form, or manner connected to Bell Canyon Community Services District (BCCSD) other than being a private resident of Bell Canyon.

It was not until years later, in 2023, that Mr. McHugh was given any official position in BCCSD. "Management Analyst" was likely quid pro quo by BCCSD directors Eric Wolf and Richard Levy for Mr. McHugh finding means to get public money for their personal, private, unofficial group: Fire Safe Council (FSC).

The issue you please need to address is that Mr. McHugh took upon himself to file for a Cal-Fire public grant in the name of BCCSD. BCCSD, not Mr. McHugh or any other entity, was awarded this public taxpayer California grant based on, what appear to be, Mr. McHugh's false and misleading claims in the application. Of greatest concern is that this public money given to BCCSD, never made it for use by BCCSD. Rather Mr. McHugh took the funds for his, Mr. Wolf's, and Mr. Levy's personal, private unofficial group, FSC, that had no affiliation with BCCSD.

Mr. McHUGH KNEW BCCSD LACKED AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN GRANTS & THAT FSC WAS NOT BCCSD MATTER

BCCSD made clear to the public that it has no authority to procure or administer grants. It also made clear that it has no authority in any fire group management or activity. This is actually a HOA matter.

June 24, 2019 BCCSD meeting minutes clarify any issue regarding BCCSD and fire programs of any sort:

7. CSD future involvement in Bell Canyon Fire protection and emergency management.

The Bell Canyon CSD is not authorized to engage in any fire or emergency management activity.

BCCSD Minutes October 21, 2019

9. Establishment of Bell Canyon Fire Safety Committee and results of the initial meeting.

The matter is under the HOA.

Mr. McHUGH KNEW HE HAD NO STANDING TO ACT IN NAME OF BCCSD

Mr. McHugh knew that BCCSD cannot procure or distribute grants. In addition, Mr. McHugh knew that FSC is a HOA not BCCSD matter. There is no possible legal manner to procure a grant for FSC or any entity through BCCSD.

Regardless of knowing the above, on December 2, 2019, Mr. McHugh named himself "BCCSD FSC Liaison" and filed for a Cal-Fire grant under this false pretense.

1. **Project Tracking #:** 19-FP-VNC-2041 CalMapper ID: [REDACTED]
Project Name/Title: Bell Canyon Home Ignition Zone Inspection Training
County: Ventura
CAL FIRE Unit/Contract County (Please use this 3-letter Unit Identifier for file naming. See Question 14): VNC - Ventura County

2. **Organization Type:** State If Other, please specify: [REDACTED]
If Non-Profit, are you a registered 501(c)(3)? Yes No

3. **Sponsoring Organization:** Bell Canyon Community Service District
Project Manager
Title: Fire Safe Council Liaison (FSCL)
First Name: Gregory **Last Name:** McHugh
Address Line 1: 30 Hackamore Lane, Suite 2B
Address Line 2: [REDACTED]
City: Bell Canyon **State:** California **Zip Code:** 91307
Phone Number: (925) 788-8870 **Secondary Phone Number:** [REDACTED]
Email Address: gmchugh@pacbell.net **Fax Number:** [REDACTED]

Not only did Mr. McHugh name himself "liaison" for a nonexistent BCCSD committee, Mr. McHugh named himself the "payee" for the public grant money:

5	I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided on this document is true and correct. Should my residency status change, I will promptly notify the state agency below.		
	AUTHORIZED PAYEE REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME (Type or Print) Gregory McHugh	TITLE Fire Safe Council Liaison	TELEPHONE (include area code) 925-788-8870
	SIGNATURE	DATE 12-9-2020	E-MAIL ADDRESS gmchugh@pacbell.net

Mr. McHUGH KNEW THE RESOLUTION HE FILED WAS FORGED

The BCCSD "resolution" Mr. McHugh submitted with the grant was never put before the BCCSD board. It was a forged (FAKE) after-the-fact-document.

Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Bell Canyon Community Services District, State of California

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California in cooperation with the California State legislature has enacted State of California Climate Investment, which provides funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for fire prevention programs, and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies, non-profit organizations, and others under the program, and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the HOME IGNITION ZONE INSPECTION TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BELL CANYON, CALIFORNIA project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Approved the filing of an application for "California Climate Investment Fire Prevention Grant Program"; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain project; and,
3. Certifies that funds under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors are available to begin the project
4. Certifies that said applicant will expend grant funds prior to March 15, 2024
5. Appoints Fire Safe Council Liaison Gregory McHugh or a designee to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

The foregoing was approved and adopted the 18th day of November, 2019 by the following vote:

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSENTS: 0

Signature
PRESIDENT

Title

---Certification of Resolution---

ATTEST:

I, _____, *BOARD MEMBER* of the Board of
Secretary Position Title

Directors of the Bell Canyon Community Services District, witness my hand or seal of the Board of Directors on 18th day of November, 2019.

Signature
GENERAL MANAGER

Title

OFFICIAL SEAL

Agenda for November 18, 2019 meeting shows this resolution was not to be addressed at the meeting, meaning it could not have been addressed. The meeting minutes support that the resolution was never addressed much less voted on.

**Board of Directors Meeting
Regular Meeting
Date: November 18, 2019**

In accordance with Government Code Section 54954, Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Bell Canyon Community Services District will hold a regular meeting at 7:00 on November 18, 2019, at 30 Hackamore Lane, Suite #8, Bell Canyon, California to consider those items set forth in the following agenda, except in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2 [b]. Please note that the Board reserves the right to modify the order in which items are heard.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Public Forum – in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.3, every agenda for a regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public, before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless that action is otherwise governed by Government Code Section 54954.2[b].
3. Approval of Minutes from previous Board Meeting
4. Treasury Report
5. Status of the Bell Creek Park Lease Agreement. Move it forward, if ready to go
6. Bell Canyon HOA request for funding specific Community Events
7. Location and status of emergency equipment obtained by the CSD
8. Various bank account updates
9. Date and time of the next CSD Board Meeting

Agenda Posting Certification: This agenda was posted on November 15, 2019, in the bulletin board at 30 Hackamore Lane, in front of Suite #5, at 5:00 PM and on the Bell Canyon Website, under CSD.

Posted by: Jenni

Mr. McHUGH KNEW ONLY ENTITY GRANTED THE FUNDS WAS BCCSD

Regardless of knowing that he filed for the BCCSD to receive the grant, that BCCSD did receive the grant, and that the grant was nontransferable, Mr. McHugh took the money for his, Mr. Wolf, and Mr. Levy's personal, private unofficial group, FSC.

Open Forum at the October 26, 2020 BCCSD meeting:

Resident Greg McHugh discussed a Cal Fire grant to Bell Canyon for \$37,000. The funds are being used for Fire Safety training. 30 have been trained including Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy personnel. The Fire Safety Council is in charge of the program and the operations and payment of bills. The Bell Canyon CSD received the grant funds for the Safety Council. There is a board of 5 or 6 people on the Fire Safety Council.

Then at the December 14, 2020 BCCSD meeting minutes state that BCCSD was LOANING \$6800 to Mr. McHugh's group. BCCSD has no authority to "loan" public funds to a private group. Confusing is why there needed to be a loan against the grant when the grant was received and the money could just have come from it. The only answer is that this way Mr. McHugh collects an extra \$6800 for FSC.

11. Loan/Advance to the Fire Safety Council of \$6,800.

Loan advance for a \$37,000 grant. Motion by Dennis Roy and Seconded by Richard Levy to advance \$6,800 to the Fire Safety Council Training. Money to be recovered from the grant. The motion passed without opposition.

This money was never reimbursed to BCCSD with the grant as the grant did not go to BCCSD nor has it yet to be returned to BCCSD by Mr. McHugh.

This grant was to end November 20, 2021, and at the November 22, 2021 BCCSD meeting, Mr. McHugh in Open Forum:

Resident Greg McHugh discussed the Fire Safety Grant and Grant funds that the CSD is holding.

BCCSD cannot be "holding" money for any group, much less one with which it has no connection or even authority to have a connection.

When asked about when he will return the money to BCCSD or Cal-Fire, Mr. McHugh answers "I do not owe any answers". Mr. McHugh seems to believe he is above the law and can do as pleases to procure and spend public funds.

I ask that you investigate Mr. McHugh, Mr. Wolf, and Mr. Levy's egregious campaign where they colluded to defraud the public for the benefit of their personal, private, unofficial group.

Thank you,

Dr. Olga Damascus