

## **Pomona needs business investment, not hysteria**

*Pastor Eddie Banales Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

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Council member Cristina Carrizosa expresses concern about the low level of Pomona's reserve ("Grand jury report shows Pomona's budget reserves well below prudent levels," Daily Bulletin, Aug. 19). It seems her solution is to further tax citizens and businesses already burdened by the highest utility tax in the area. This is all really very curious considering Mrs. Carrizosa's continued opposition to the Pomona Valley Transfer Station, a project that brings dozens of jobs and a substantial amount of annual revenue to the city.

Nowhere in the article does she discuss the solution of increasing revenue by creating a more conducive business environment. Instead, Mrs. Carrizosa and her community associates are actively working against the aforementioned project, to the point of filing a lawsuit against the city and engaging in civil disobedience by disrupting City Council meetings.

Is this how a \$15 million project with a state-of-the-art facility and appropriate land use is dealt with in Pomona? And how does this kind of negativity advance the city's economic cause? Of course, it doesn't. In fact, quite the opposite.

Businesses that may be considering investing in Pomona's future will certainly think twice with this kind of nonsense going on.

Mrs. Carrizosa and her associates, particularly United Voices of Pomona attorney James Sanbrano, have characterized the Pomona Valley Transfer Station as a "waste dump" ("Lawsuit aims to stop station," Daily Bulletin, Aug. 18).

Nothing could be farther from the truth. This is a Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified project - an advanced facility that employs the latest in environmental technologies. Something most municipalities would be proud of instead is being derided as a "waste dump."

Furthermore, city resources will be wasted defending against what at best could be described as a nuisance lawsuit based on misinformation and falsely placed emotion. This type of fear and innuendo has no place in public policy decisions, and it is a shame that a community leader and sitting council member would be part of it, especially in the face of Pomona's current financial crisis.

Again, how does this advance

Pomona's economic cause? But the beat goes on, with Mrs. Carrizosa and her associates supporting a group of candidates in the upcoming November election that are seeking to remove council members who voted to approve the transfer station. This hardly seems the appropriate response to community leaders with the foresight and leadership to encourage investment in Pomona.

It will be for the voters to decide whether to support a vision of growth for Pomona or to allow hysteria and misinformation to keep Pomona from realizing its future potential.

Bishop Eddie Banales is senior pastor of the Southern California Dream Center in Pomona.