

**Hayes, Kathy**

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**From:** David Cobb <davidkcobb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:06 PM  
**To:** COB; Bohn, Rex; Fennell, Estelle; Wilson, Mike; Bass, Virginia; Madrone, Steve  
**Cc:** County Auditor; County Administrative Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment re: Agenda item H3

To the Board of Supervisors of Humboldt County,

Below is an open letter from the entire Board of Directors and staff of Cooperation Humboldt in support of Auditor-Controller Karen Paz-Dominguez.

Sincerely,  
David Cobb, Executive Director  
[Cooperation Humboldt](#)  
[707-362-0333](tel:707-362-0333)

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**WE SUPPORT OUR ELECTED AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

Cooperation Humboldt exists to create a solidarity economy in our community. We know it is possible to meet our collective needs without exploitation or oppression and that it is possible to do so in a manner that heals and regenerates our natural ecosystems.

We also understand the importance of public engagement in civic leadership, and we believe that our elected officials should be held to the highest standards of public service. Humboldt County Auditor-Controller Karen Paz-Dominguez is an outstanding public servant and we are appalled at the attacks she has faced for the past two years, which have intensified of late. The recent actions by the Board of Supervisors taken against our elected Auditor-Controller are baseless, border on malicious harassment, and are a waste of public funds that are badly needed for other purposes. It is particularly disappointing to see a strong young Latina leader being singled out for such baseless mistreatment and blatant abuse.

For two years Paz-Dominguez has stated that she was not receiving accurate information in a timely manner and that her office was understaffed to do the work required under California law -- work she was elected to do by the voters of Humboldt County. She has a legal responsibility to certify financial records and can't do so without proper documentation. No one should want or expect her to do otherwise. Now that she either hasn't gotten the records or has received them late, the Board of Supervisors and the County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) are attempting to blame her for the adverse consequences of her principled choice to follow both the law and generally accepted accounting principles.

Several times the CAO has hired outside consultants to undo work already completed accurately by Paz-

Dominguez. Where did the money come from to hire consultants for this purpose, while the Board refuses to hire the two additional staffers that Paz-Dominguez has said she needed for the past two years?

Now the Board and CAO want to hire an outside firm to audit -- not the county -- but the Auditor's office itself, at a cost of \$250,000. This during an unprecedented pandemic, when funds are desperately needed to keep county residents housed, fed, and healthy. Furthermore, the CAO is now advocating to hire a Finance Director, in direct opposition to the decision made by voters in 2016.

It is also worth noting that the county's outside auditor has previously praised Paz-Dominguez' work when she reduced an \$8 million "miscellaneous" trust fund down to \$480,000. Paz-Dominguez also kept the county from making a gross error on its projected income when \$7 million in revenue was being counted twice. And she has diligently worked to reduce the fraud potential in payroll that was taken out of the Auditor's office just before she was sworn in as the newly elected Auditor.

Frequently, the County states it can't do critically important community projects due to a lack of funds. So where is this money coming from to attack the Auditor? It is money that would be much better spent serving the community rather than trying to disparage one of our most respected and effective elected officials.

## Hayes, Kathy

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**From:** Pat Kanzler <rivndell7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:27 PM  
**To:** COB  
**Subject:** Comment for H3

My name is Pat Kanzler and I live at 82 Sunshine Way in Eureka, Ca; I voted for Karen Paz Dominguez as Auditor Controller because I knew we would get more transparency from her to find out where all our money is going to, she is asking for more staff to do her job and the County Supervisors are not supporting her but threaten to use outside sources.....theses outside sources do not have to be transparent and very well could be fraudulent!

I voted for Karen because I trust her and do not trust my County Supervisors.; what does that say about you?

Either delay this until January when a new Supervisor will come on board or drop this entirely, the actions of this board are becoming dangerously indicative of oligarchic fraudulent activity, and will be noted and voted upon.

I give my trust and support to our Auditor Controller.

Pat Kanzler RN

7074979950

[rivndell7@gmail.com](mailto:rivndell7@gmail.com)

## Hayes, Kathy

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**From:** Caroline Griffith <griffithcarolinec@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 1:43 PM  
**To:** COB; Bohn, Rex; Fennell, Estelle; Madrone, Steve; Wilson, Mike; Bass, Virginia  
**Cc:** County Auditor; County Administrative Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment re: Agenda Item H3

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in regards to the proposed hiring of an outside contractor to perform services that the Auditor-Controller has repeatedly asked for funding for. I am confused about the logic involved in directing funding towards outside sources (something the CAO's office has done repeatedly) instead of hiring more staff and fixing the issues at the source. Even before being elected, Auditor-Controller Paz-Dominguez has been raising the alarm about critical understaffing in her office. It seems logical that in order to complete the work that needs to be done by the end of the year, the BOS would approve spending that money on more staff, rather than a \$300/hour consultant. The Auditor-Controller's office is a critical check on the county budget, making sure that we are tracking the spending of public funds. Even outside auditors have stated that the department needs more and better trained staff. Please spend our money to fix the problem and hire more staff. Let's keep our money local, not send it to consultants from Sacramento. I applaud Paz-Dominguez's attempts to fix the problems that are plaguing her department. Change is difficult, but as a constituent, I am happy to see her working to make county financial transactions more transparent and accountable.

Most concerning to me about this agenda item is sneaking in the creation of the position of a County Financial Officer, something that the voters rejected in 2016. If we have the funds to create an entirely new position, why not spend that money on more staff for the Auditor-Controller? The fact that her requests have been repeatedly ignored until we are at this crisis point where there is a "need" to bring in outside help creates the appearance that this has been orchestrated to create a new position and put the financial responsibilities of the Auditor-Controller's office under the purview of the County Administrative Officer. This may not be the case, but it certainly creates that illusion. I urge you to vote no on this item and, since we have \$250,000 extra dollars laying around, to direct that to the Auditor-Controller's office to hire the extra staff they have been asking for for years.

Thank you,  
Caroline Griffith  
3137 K St.,  
Eureka, CA 95503  
541-415-4756

## Hayes, Kathy

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**From:** Centro del Pueblo Humboldt <cdphumboldt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 7:50 PM  
**To:** COB  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 12/8/20

Centro del Pueblo

We are Humboldt County residents and are constituents of all Supervisors.

Concerns:

- Auditor/Controller is an important position and the watchdog for the taxpayers monies
- It is an independent elected office and is that way for many reasons
  - Provides checks and balances
  - Safeguards the taxpayers monies
  - Ensures that payments are made for only authorized expenditures
- Out of 58 counties there are 54 independent elected Auditor/Controllers. Only 4 have a Chief Financial Officer. What is being proposed is not common as stated by the CAO.
- The point is". The Auditor/Controller is an elected official that cannot be directed by the Board of Supervisors or CAO.
- Past Auditors/Controllers have requested additional staff and not received it. Not a new request with the current Auditor/Controller. Yet BOS has continually ignored the requests from not only this Auditor/Controller but her predecessors. Why? Why is this department continually understaffed?
- The CAO wants the Chief Financial Officer to report to her. Why? What experience does the CAO have with accounting and procedures? According to her resume she has an anthropology degree. She is not qualified to oversee this position. Again, this is why the work needs to remain with the Auditor/Controller who was elected by the voters of Humboldt County to oversee the taxpayers money. This seems like a power grab by the CAO.
- Recall that the CAO inflated the budget by over 7 million by counting revenue twice! Also Auditor/Controller Paz Dominguez also reduced by \$8 million that was held in "miscellaneous trust" and brought it down to \$500,000 and was commended for this by an outside auditor.
- Where is the money coming from to pay for an investigator to investigate Auditor/Controller Paz Dominguez? Where is it in the budget? How is there money for staff but there is money to spend a quarter of a million on outside consultants?

- The proposal was voted down by the voters in 2016. Why does the BOS and the CAO believe that they can ignore what the voters voted down? The BOS can't do what is being proposed without violated numerous election laws. The BOS is only ensuring another lawsuit at the taxpayers expense!
- The attacks on the Auditor/Controller are without precedence and without merit.
  - Why doesn't Auditor/Controller Paz Dominguez receive timely notice of meetings that are about her position as Auditor/Controller and her staff?
  - Why is she not allowed to present evidence or witnesses at meetings?
- Singling out the Auditor/Controller can only mean that you are not happy with the fact that she is doing her job and ensuring that there is transparency with regard to the taxpayers money. You want business as usual – that has to change or maybe who sits on the board does.

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**+ Info: Centro del Pueblo web- Radio Centro**  
**FB/ IG: @centrodelpueblo**  
**DONATE**

CDP está afiliado a Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous People. "Por el empoderamiento de la comunidad Indígena Inmigrante" [www.CdPueblo.com](http://www.CdPueblo.com) [@centrodelpueblo](https://www.instagram.com/centrodelpueblo)  
[Conoce tus derechos- KYR Humboldt is a Sanctuary County- un Condado Santuario](#)



**From:** [Lissie Rydz](#)  
**To:** [COB](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Regarding Karen Paz Dominguez  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:46:21 PM

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Hi my name is Alissia Rydz, I'm a Humboldt County resident and Steve Madrone is my supervisor.

I am concerned about the perceived overreach and overstep on our Auditor's role in the community. The auditor should remain an independent position. Here are some of my concerns:

- The Auditor/Controller is an important position and the watchdog for us as taxpayers
- It is an independent elected office and is that way for many reasons
  - o Provides checks and balances
  - o Safeguards the taxpayers monies
  - o Ensures that payments are made for only authorized expenditures
- Out of 58 counties there are 54 independent elected Auditor/Controllers. Only 4 have a Chief Financial Officer. What is being proposed is not common as stated by the CAO.
- The Auditor/Controller is an elected official that cannot be directed by the Board of Supervisors or CAO.
- Past Auditors/Controllers have requested additional staff and not received it. This is not a new request with the current Auditor/Controller. Yet BOS has continually ignored the requests from not only this Auditor/Controller but her predecessors. Why? Why is this department continually understaffed?
- The CAO wants the Chief Financial Officer to report to her. Why? What experience does the CAO have with accounting and procedures? According to her resume she has an anthropology degree. She is not qualified to oversee this position. Again, this is why the work needs to remain with the Auditor/Controller who was elected by the voters of Humboldt County to oversee the taxpayers money. This seems like a power grab by the CAO.
- Recall that the CAO inflated the budget by over 7 million by counting revenue twice! Also Auditor/Controller Paz Dominguez reduced by \$8 million that was held in "miscellaneous trust" and brought it down to \$500,000 and was commended for this by an outside auditor.
- Where is the money coming from to pay for an investigator to investigate Auditor/Controller Paz Dominguez? Where is it in the budget? How is there money for staff but there is money to spend a quarter of a million on outside consultants?
- The proposal was voted down by the voters in 2016. Why does the BOS and the CAO believe that they can ignore what the voters voted down? The BOS can't do what is being proposed without violated numerous election laws. The BOS is only ensuring another lawsuit at the taxpayers expense!
- The attacks on the Auditor/Controller are without precedence and without merit.
- o Why doesn't Auditor/Controller Paz Dominguez receive timely notice of meetings that are about her position as Auditor/Controller and her staff?
- o Why is she not allowed to present evidence or witnesses at meetings?
- Singling out the Auditor/Controller can only mean that you are not happy with the fact that she is doing her job and ensuring that there is transparency with regard to the taxpayers money. You want business as usual – that has to change or maybe who sits on the board does.

Thank you for your time,

Alissia Rydz

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Lissie Rydz

707 267 1686

[lissierydz.com](http://lissierydz.com)