

EID employee benefits cover up

Top paid employees skew \$49,000 average

EID's General Counsel Tom Cumpston has joined General Manager Jim Abercrombie to refuse disclosing how much of EID's employee benefits costs go to top paid employees.

With \$10.9 million of budgeted benefits for 221.5 employees, the overall average benefits per EID employee is \$49,000 annually. Another \$13,000 of paid time off brings combined benefits and paid time off to \$62,000.

But amounts paid to top paid employees skew these averages. When asked how much of EID's \$10.9 million of benefits go to EID employees with salaries over \$100,000, Cumpston claimed this information was not in existence and stated that California law did not require the District to provide it.

Cumpston's claim, of course, is deliberate stonewalling to cover up huge, disproportionate benefits that he, Abercrombie, and other senior personnel receive. For example, adjacent water district Georgetown Divide Public Utility District has detailed information on its website showing their General Manager receives \$100,000 in benefits on top of his \$150,000 salary. Cumpston and Abercrombie have reported salaries of \$160,000 and \$165,000, respectively, so based on proportional salaries and inclusive of paid time off they each most definitely receive more than \$100,000 of benefits.

EID recently provided information to the Mountain Democrat that Abercrombie's total compensation was \$228,383. But that information excluded substantial additional pension payments EID made to CalPERS in Abercrombie's behalf.

EID ratepayers are facing 102% of water rate hikes for 2010-2015 and deserve to know how much Abercrombie, Cumpston, and others of EID's employees with salaries over \$100,000 really are being paid.

EID Board directors should uphold their sworn financial fiduciary responsibilities to ratepayers and slash authorized spending on the excessive benefits amounts. They further should reprimand Cumpston and Abercrombie for their self-serving cover-up deceit regarding those excessive benefits.