

Mailbox

The Independent Newspaper
June 18, 2009

Power Lines

John Houghton
Livermore

At the end of your front page article from the Independent's June 4, 2009, titled *Big Crowd Opposes Power Line*, you noted, "The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors postponed a vote on a letter in opposition of the TANC project after director Scott Kamena said he would not vote for the letter as written." You quoted Scott Kamena as saying, "*It is important to look at the greater impact of the project on society, not just Livermore.*" The article continued, "he suggested *there might be an economic benefit to the district if the power lines were to go through the parks.*"

While I agree that before making a decision regarding the TANC project we should be looking at the greater impact of the project on society, I cannot support Kamena's second statement implying there might be an opportunity for economic benefit to the district. I know nothing of LARPD's current budget situation or what he meant by economic benefit, but a decision about placing huge power lines over the our park property should certainly not be influenced by the possibility of making a buck for the district in exchange for TANC's use of the land. Instead, I believe that LARPD should be proactively working to improve our parks by lobbying to have the unsightly, unused power lines and towers removed from them. And I believe that LARPD should strongly oppose TANC's proposed new right-of-way through our parks.

If Kamena truly believes placing power lines on park property is okay as long as the park is compensated, it is my opinion that his priorities are badly skewed and he should step down from his position as a Director of the LARPD. Our community has worked long and hard to acquire a great park system. It belongs to the people, should be preserved for the people, and should not be bartered to the highest bidder.