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## Letters: O.C. fairgrounds sale, pro, con

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Letters:

I agree with the majority of Register's editorials, but take strong exception to the "[Fairground sale moves ahead](#)" [Commentary, Jan. 17]. This is wrong on many levels. It makes one ask, "what part of Orange County fairgrounds don't you understand?" It should belong to us, it's not [Disneyland](#). Second, any realtor will tell you not to sell – unless absolutely necessary – valuable property in a down market, which we're in. So what, we got \$56 million for a \$100 percent million property? And you think that's a good deal? How big a part of our \$20 billion state budget shortage will this cover? To my understanding the fairgrounds turned a profit for the state. Get rid of the thieving directors who take thousands in "freebies" and it'll be more profitable.

Finally, who the state sold it to is insane. A developer. He's going maintain and improve it? Wrong. My understanding is that this isn't a done deal. I'm a private-property proponent, but this is not a good deal.

**Gregg Lipanovich**

San Clemente

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I don't know either Steven Craig or Dwight Manley. It doesn't really matter and it shouldn't be an issue with the buying of the Fairground property.

The property was put up for sale because the state Legislature refuses to stay within the budget limits of the state. We need money because the amount of revenue coming in does not meet the number of the checks the legislature writes. It appears that Craig and Manley know how to budget – they have the money to buy the property.

Craig and Manley are exercising their rights as American citizens. He who has the money, gets the deal. Since when does a cash-strapped state (and all the local opponents to the selling of this property) have any right to dictate what someone does with property after they buy it.

Seems Craig/Manley are a lot more successful at budgeting and money than our state politicians; they'll no doubt do a better job. If you want the state to give a damn about the historical significance of the Fairground property, then address them. It wouldn't be up for sale if they did give a damn. Craig and Manley represent the best of what makes our country strong – business management for business growth.

If you want to demonize someone for the selling price or for what the use of the property should be, then go to the legislature – they're the reason it's up for sale. If those who block this sale were half as active to help get rid of the trash in Sacramento, we wouldn't have to have this conversation at all.

The sad part is that when Craig and Manley pay for it, only about one third of it or less will make any real difference in our California deficit.

**Cookie Bretz-Smith**

Garden Grove

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Comments:

**hbrocks** wrote:

Cookie, you are right, It's not the "buying" of the Fairgrounds, it's the "Selling" of our fairgrounds that is the issue.

No other Fairgrounds in our State are up for sale to help Sac town plug their holes. I Disagree with you on "why" the Fairgrounds was put up for sale. Interestingly the current fair board trustees hired lobbyist Dick Ackerman for \$19,000 to run up to Sac. and push all the assemblymen to vote for selling this property, then said fair board forms a non-profit in July to purchase said fairgrounds before the state even publicly brings the property to the market. This fair board was also were caught meeting privately to discuss the purchase of our fairgrounds, a violation of the Bagley Keene act.

So the issue isn't anyone telling the Developers what to do after they sign their check, the issue is how and why our fairgrounds ever became vulnerable in the first place.

1/23/2010 7:48 PM PST