

Bringing you HOPE -
Helping Our Peninsula's Environment

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Media Release March 13, 2009
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**Supervisor Potter Hoodwinks Coastal Commission into
Scheduling Meeting at Project Attorney's Building**

March 13, 2009 - Coastal Commission staff publicly apologized to Commissioners at today's because it arranged last year's Monterey County Coastal Commission meeting at Rancho Canada. This is significant because Rancho Canada is owned by the land use lawyer Tony Lombardo who was also representing a project on that meeting's agenda.

Commission staff expressed regret for the conflict of financial and political interests and said they are taking steps to try to hold all future meetings in public buildings. Because they do not live in our area they apparently had no idea that Mr. Lombardo owned Rancho Canada until it was too late to arrange another meeting location. No previous Coastal Commission meeting had been held at Rancho Canada. Monterey County Supervisor. Coastal Commissioner Dave Potter was apparently lobbying for the meeting to be held at Lombardo's building.

HOPE has asked that the Commission, or the legislature, adopt rules which would –

- Stop meeting at locations owned in any way by applicants with projects on their agenda or their agents; and
- Stop commissioners from influencing meeting locations.

For more information on Political and Financial Conflicts of Interest please see –

www.1hope.org/cfr.htm

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