Wednesday
January 24, 2007

Compiled by the County Administrative Office,
County of San Bernardino, California

The following contains news media accounts referencing the County of San Bernardino
and other items concerning issues of importance or interest to the county. Items that
may be unflattering to the county or even untrue are included to make the organization
aware of what the public is seeing.
Colonies decision haunts board

Supervisors informed county will be paying $10 million in interest on bonds to finance settlement

By RYAN ORR
Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors were informed today that the county would be paying $110 million in interest alone on bonds to finance a $102 million settlement with Colonies Partners.

Tuesday's board meeting proved that the Nov. 28 decision to settle the lawsuit over a flood-control basin has not been forgotten by county taxpayers. Supervisors had to listen to comments from angry residents after adopting a resolution to issue the bonds.

Assistant County Administrator Norman Kanold calculated the $110 million figure by assuming an interest rate between 4.5 percent and 5.5 percent over a period of 30 years.

The decision to settle the lawsuit was made in closed session at a board meeting last year. The board agreed to pay the Colonies Partners $102 million, releasing $22 million of that as an immediate payment. The decision was passed in a 3-2 vote by the board, ending a four-year legal battle that cost the county approximately $7 million in legal fees.

At Tuesday's board meeting, residents accused the board of making the decision based on political backing and other issues.

"Everybody I've talked to said you didn’t have the proper infor-
Colonies: Contract with Platinum Advisors renewed

from A1

mation," said Robert Ferguson, attorney for San Bernardino County Taxpayers for Fair Resolution. "You don't settle lawsuits based on campaign contributions."

One resident said that it proves that politicians are cheaper than roads and schools.

Supervisors Dennis Haneberger and Josie Gonzalez made it clear that they did not vote for the settlement, but that they would vote for the action to institute the sale of bonds to pay out the settlement.

In other actions, the board voted 3-2 to renew the contract of Platinum Advisors, despite questionable actions by one of their employees in the past.

Supervisor Dennis Haneberger, who voted against the contract extension, said that the lobbying company had embarrassed the county and cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The incident in question occurred when a lobbyist was representing an Adelanto prison that the county was interested in buying while also representing the county, creating a conflict of interest.

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