

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 4:29:41 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 4:28 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: PALO DURO RIVER AUTHORITY TEXAS

First Name: Steve

Last Name: Ramos

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Dumas

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I'm deeply concerned about the decisions the Palo Duro River Authority's board of directors repeatedly make that benefit other taxing entities and put Moore County at an advantage. The information I have, both of them Amarillo Globe News reports, show the PDRA gave tax abatements to companies who received the same consideration from the Hansford County Commissioners.

That's proof, at least to me, that the PDRA and Hansford County vote the same — and never in the interest of Moore County.

Moore County paid about 72 percent of the costs of building the reservoir, and we've paid about 69 percent toward its continuing maintenance and operations. To date, we've received nothing in return. Nothing. The PDRA has never offered a tax abatement to a company moving into Moore County. We can't even get them to hold a board meeting closer to Moore County. The meetings are held in Spearman, which is over an hour's drive away. I have never seen a meeting agenda posted in Moore County, and since they don't have a website, we have no way of knowing what's on their agenda.

The PDRA puts Moore County at a competitive disadvantage with its lack of cooperation with Moore County. The PDRA benefits only Hansford County, but we pay the largest chunk of their financial commitments. This must change. Their continued indifference to Moore County's concerns has become an unavoidable issue we want to see addressed. The PDRA operates mainly as a park, and the board has never studied other uses that would make it self-supporting.

Moore County's taxpayers deserve better from the PDRA. Their approval of tax abatements to businesses looking to locate in Hansford County while showing no interest in listening to Moore County's concerns is an insult. The Globe News reported that the PDRA granted a seven-year tax abatement to a California firm seeking to build a 240-megawatt facility in Hansford County.

Perhaps the Dumas Economic Development Corporation could have competed with Hansford County for that business if the PDRA would extend the same tax abatement to them if they located in Moore County.

We consider Hansford County and the city of Stinnett to be our neighbors, but they are showing more and more they want only to take from us and never give anything in return. That is not what neighbors do.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Since Moore County pays 75 percent of the PDRA's financial commitments, we should have more board representation. The board member from the city of Stinnett is the longest-serving board member, and he votes with four members from Hansford County. Moore County can never have a say in the way PDRA functions because we have always been outvoted, and it will always be that way.

We also would like an insertion of language that would allow Moore County to pull out of the PDRA. While that would be our last resort, we can't continue to send our tax dollars to an entity that has historically shown total indifference to Moore County's concerns.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree