

Reno's planning department rife with potential for conflicts of interest

The City of Reno's management and planning departments are rife with questions related to inherent bias and conflicts of interest.

Assistant City Manager Bill Thomas was the planning consultant that advanced annexation for Verdi and Cold Springs property owners. He now coordinates investment in public infrastructure for these lands.

Arlo Stockham is the new community development director. Formerly, he was the paid head promoter for the sprawling Winnemucca Ranch development.

The new Reno planning manager is Angela Fuss. Recently, she represented developers for the ill-conceived Stonegate development.

How can the public trust these individuals won't have bias toward their former employers and clients as these and other projects move forward? Developers already shower the council with campaign cash and employ mercenary armies of lobbyists and PR hacks. They shouldn't also be entitled to inside leverage.

Mayor Schieve and the Council should answer how Reno citizens can be assured that the public interest will not be compromised given these conflicts.

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