

## David Rickert

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**From:** David Rickert  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024 9:47 AM  
**To:** David Rickert  
**Subject:** Letter From Attorney General

**Importance:** High

Dear Supervisors,

At the May 14<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting, The Board requested that I report what knowledge I had regarding a letter from Attorney General Rob Bonta dated January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. My first recollection of the existence of this letter was from a phone conversation I had with Chairman Crye on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:57 pm. I was out of the office that day, but Chairman Crye contacted me to be updated on a number of county items. During this call he asked me if I was aware of a letter to Supervisor Jones from Attorney General Bonta. I told him that I was unaware of a letter. I told him I would look into it Monday (May 6<sup>th</sup>).

On Monday I had in my email inbox a request regarding said letter from Doni Chamberlain with the letter attached (please see below). The email dated May 3<sup>rd</sup> was my first contact with the letter. I do not recall any conversation regarding said letter with Supervisor Jones. Please let me know if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

David J. Rickert  
County Executive Officer  
County of Shasta  
1450 Court Street, 308A  
Redding, California 96001

## David Rickert

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**From:** Doni Chamberlain <donig.aneWSCafe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 11:31 AM  
**To:** Patrick Jones; Timothy Garman; Christopher Kelstrom; Mary Rickert; David Rickert  
**Subject:** Re: Attorney General Rob Bonta letter  
**Attachments:** from bonta to jones jan 29 2024.jpg

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Do not follow links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My apologies for failing to attach the letter. Please find it attached.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Warm regards,  
Doni

On Fri, May 3, 2024 at 11:11 AM Doni Chamberlain <[donig.aneWSCafe@gmail.com](mailto:donig.aneWSCafe@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good morning.

The Jan. 29, 2024 letter From Attorney General Rob Bonta to former Supervisor Patrick Jones is now public.

Here are my questions for each of you:

1. Did Supervisor Patrick Jones share the letter with you after he received it, and if so, when?
2. If Supervisor Patrick Jones did not share the letter with you, how and when did you learn of it?
3. Can you please comment regarding the information contained in the letter, and your reaction to the letter?
4. Does this letter change your opinion regarding how Shasta County District Attorney Stephanie Bridgett handled the Zogg Fire settlement?
5. Is there anything else you'd like to say?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Doni Chamberlain

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**Doni Chamberlain**  
**Publisher/Journalist/Owner**  
[aNewsCafe.com](http://aNewsCafe.com)  
**Since 2007, Northern California's Premier**  
**Daily Online News Magazine**  
**100,000+ unique monthly visitors**



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January 29, 2024

Patrick H. Jones, Chairman  
Shasta County Board of Supervisors  
1450 Court Street, Suite 308B  
Redding, CA 96001-1673

Re: *District Attorney Settlement of Zogg Fire Case*  
Superior Court of California, County of Shasta, Case Nos.: 202363 and 21-006622

Dear Chairman Jones:

The Office of the Attorney General received your August 29, 2023 letter requesting review and the potential appointment of special counsel pursuant to Government Code section 12553 based on the criminal filing and civil settlement by the Shasta County District Attorney's Office related to PG&E's liability for the Zogg fire.

Our review of a district attorney's decision on whether or how to prosecute a case is done under the abuse of discretion standard. Under that standard, we ask whether any reasonable prosecutor could come to the same decision as the one reached by the District Attorney here.

After thoroughly reviewing the court records, available reports, and information about the settlement, our conclusion is that the District Attorney did not abuse her discretion in dismissing criminal charges and instead reaching a significant civil settlement. Furthermore, there was no evidence of misconduct or impropriety in how the settlement was reached. This includes our determination that, based on the information available to our office, that the District Attorney did not violate Government Code section 1090. Consequently, our office will not be taking further action at this time.

Sincerely,

*Lance Winters*

Lance E. Winters  
Chief Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division