

Erin Dunn  
Community Comment  
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This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

Oh EPIC. I thought we were broken up. You've been toddling along, picking on obvious targets, but not making too much of a spectacle of yourself.

Until last week. And then it became just too much for me. Now I have to comment.

Last week EPIC sent out a press release about Green Diamond. Two things about that release drove me to this comment. If only one of the two had happened, I might have managed to stay above the fray. But now I feel forced to address it because there needs to be some accountability.

First, the press release itself and the emotionally overwrought language that misrepresents the situation. It's like you do it on purpose— like you know better, but just can't help yourself.

Here is a sample sentence from the release:

"Green Diamond does it again! The company has gotten another sweetheart deal that allows them to clearcut with impunity, once again proving that the rules don't apply to the big boys." End quote.

Impunity: exemption from punishment or freedom from the injurious consequences of an action.

Exemption from what, I ask? You use the word clearcut like it's illegal—and you've worked hard to create that image, so my hat is off to

you on that. Clearcutting is a timber resource management tool. It provides sunshine to the surrounding trees, allows critters like mice to be uncovered for owls to eat, and California clearcuts have to be a certain size—miniscule compared to our neighbors to the North in Oregon—with snags and other debris left behind to protect wildlife.

Do you know how many regulations are in place for a timber harvest plan to be approved? It's not up to even one regulatory agency. Many agencies have to sign off on it. You purposely use language that creates an image of impropriety. Sorry to tell you, what Green Diamond does on their land is legal and above board. They have no choice in the matter.

While you were busy with that creative writing exercise, nearly seven thousand illegal Cannabis plants were being eradicated in Southern Humboldt.

A partial list of violations: Three water pollution violations; Two depositing trash in or near a waterway; a Stream crossing violation; improper storage and removal of solid waste; Grading without a permit; Improper disposal of sewage and an unpermitted well violation. A response from EPIC? Crickets.

But a legal timber operation gets your attention. You continue to reinforce the illusion you created that timber companies are the enemy. But you show your greed when you do that—you aren't interested in the environment—there is no "Protection" in Environmental Protection Information Center or you would have been front and center with the illegal grows in Humboldt.

I preferred being broken up.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.