

## The Tail Wagging The Dog

We are in a recession. The recession began locally with the collapse of the housing market. The collapse of the housing market started just as a small group of Boulder City residents began an effort to recall councilpersons Chandler and Strickland for their efforts to control costs and introduce accountability. Predictably, housing prices and interest rates have fallen just as steadily as the level of Lake Mead.

In March the petitioners' committee asked City Attorney Olsen to review and comment on the ballot questions. Mr. Olsen refused to do so. In April it became apparent that there was a very real danger that Sol Bio would default. No action was taken by City staff other than to hope and to spend money they had reason to believe they would never receive. In June Mr. Olsen took it upon himself to hire Lionel, Sawyer and Collins to sue the petitioners over the ballot questions that he refused to review.

Suddenly, in August, the idea of refinancing debt came up. This is like the sudden hike in electricity rates that occurred in 2008, when it was discovered that there had been no contract between the City and Nevada Energy for over a decade. Somebody found something that everyone else had overlooked for years. How likely was that? How was it allowed to happen a second time??

Instead of questioning the inattention of City staff, or the competence of the City's highly paid consultants, the blame is again being focused on the petitioners who placed the spending limit question on the ballot, and by association, the voters who passed it. Until the day that the City's management team is held accountable for the consequences of its actions, the only certainty is that it will be the tail that wags this dog.

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