

Economic Rubber Duck Race

Orange County is economically adrift.

For the economy, there is no disaster plan let alone a plan to systematically develop the economy.

Worse yet, there is a false sense of security being delivered to the public by so-called experts, many of which have a conflict of interest. If they tell the truth, it may adversely affect their job by causing people to be cautious in their buying.

The unemployment rate is absolutely not a measure of the health of the economy. It makes no distinction about the rise and fall of jobs based on their specific contribution to the economy and is therefore unreliable and unprofessional if not deliberately misleading.

The state and federal governments further add to the problem with economic forecasts based on data they have collected which cannot distinguish the difference between a hang glider and a helicopter.

With these two products combined together it is not possible to predict the future of either individually nor whether the schools should be training aircraft engine mechanics or seamstresses.

Twenty-seven California state agencies use data like this to predict and advise our state legislators, department heads, the business community and the general public.

Another measure of the health of the economy is the number of times the word "recession" is mentioned in the Orange County Register newspaper.

If the current methods of monitoring the health of the economy were likened to a gypsy fortuneteller, it would be an insult to the gypsy.

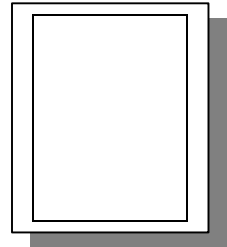
Another part of the façade is the number of organizations that have economic development in their names or their employee's titles.

Examining the total results of 33 city employees with economic development in their titles and dozens of programs that profess to create jobs, there has not been a measurable dent in the 370,000 California manufacturing jobs that have been lost since December of 2000. This was the most vital element of our economic development engine.

The feds put a temporary bandage on the situation by lowering the interest rate and creating a housing boom but that method is not permanent and sooner rather than later will have to be replaced with jobs that bring money in from outside the region or from other countries.

High tech manufacturing jobs could solve the problem but these are leaving because of tax abuse, workforce skills mismatches and the high cost of living due to real estate appreciation.

In summary, we are like a rubber duck in a drifting race with no motor or rudder. We are all at the mercy of worldwide elements without responsible stewardship. Your children are at the mercy of what you do to correct this. Tell your legal representatives.



(economic rubber duck race)