

## Imploring Jerry Core to re-do mural

Come on guys ... the side of a building is not the proper venue for a political statement! This mural has no purpose but to cause controversy within our town. The other murals have been a true enhancement to Bishop but not this one. I implore Jerry Core to do the right thing: re-do the mural on his building, and have one painted that we all can enjoy.

**Holly Kimball**  
Bishop

## Artist, even if <sup>10/25/05</sup> unintentionally, has helped perpetuate local anger

*The following letter by LADWP Watershed Resource Manager Brian Tillemans was sent to Mr. John Pugh, muralist, with a copy forwarded to The Inyo Register for publication. —Ed.*

Dear John:

You are a talented artist but I think you may have crossed the line with the message you wanted to depict with your Bishop mural; unless your intent was one to perpetuate conflict.

Two independent researchers/journalists from outside the Owens Valley conducted research into the social aspects of water issues in the Owens Valley. One was an environmental journalist from a radio station in San Francisco; the other was a graduate stu-

dent from Colorado writing his master's thesis. Neither was aligned with any special interest groups and both were in a position to independently make an unbiased decision. Both of the researchers came to the same conclusion. They realized that there is so much entrenchment in past history that people cannot move forward and work together for the future.

Because of this blinded entrenchment, people are either too far to the left or too far to the right. It is not socially or politically acceptable to try and work productively with LADWP. You are either an LADWP hater or you are silent. The local media is of the opinion that unless they stir controversy, people won't want to listen. Your mural perpetuates the "angered" mind-set that keeps the parties from moving forward.

I only wish you had spent the time to explore the history and management of the City of Los Angeles lands in the Eastern Sierra by talking to all sides. As a resource manager, I would have loved to show you all the ongoing positive environmental projects and management on LADWP lands — things you never hear about because it is politically and socially unacceptable to acknowledge any good done by the City of Los Angeles. There is a reason why there is talk of a conservation easement for the Owens Valley, there is a reason why we have one of the highest nesting densities of willow flycatchers in the state, there is a reason why the tule elk are doing better here than any place in the state, there is a reason why real estate prices are skyrocketing. It's not because there is death and destruction here, it's because people want to move to this valley because the City of Los Angeles has kept the watershed undeveloped and in good condition

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to protect the water supply of Los Angeles from urbanization, pollution and other threats. I challenge you to find another Owens Valley in California—good luck. I am very fortunate to have a piece of this beauty and intend to stay here when I retire because I know the people I work with all have the same love for the valley as I do and will take care of it.

Your beautiful paintings are to be commended, but if you are to delve into the political aspects of a small community you should examine the whole picture before attempting to portray such a one-sided bold statement that serves to separate rather than bring people together.

Sincerely,

**Brian Tillemans**