

Dear Board of Supervisors and Chair Crandell,

My name is Lingzi Chen, and I'm a reporter with Lake County News. I am covering the Guenoc Valley project and am working on a story on the developer, Lotusland, and its owner.

I have several pressing questions for the county that I believe are important for transparency and accountability:

- Does anyone in county government or on the Board have any information about Lotusland, its leadership, and its financing capacity? Or at least, how much will the project cost? I asked county staff last week and was told they are unable to answer those questions. Do you consider this information unimportant or irrelevant given the scale of the project?
- If the developer underperforms, causes environmental damage, or abandons the project midway, who is ultimately responsible? Where does the buck stop?
- What specific oversight or protection does the county put in place to ensure the project is carried out responsibly? If the developer fails, who steps in to remediate the damage and protect the community?

County staff have already told me that financial vetting of the applicant is not part of the permitting process. Does that mean the county is effectively proceeding without knowing who this developer really is or whether they have the capacity to complete the project?

Meanwhile, my reporting has uncovered troubling patterns in the owner's past developments abroad, including treatment of workers, financial and legal issues, which raise questions about what could happen here.

I'm not questioning the developer and its partners today. I'm asking the county, for a development that projects \$3.8 billion economic growth over 25 years and nearly 2700 jobs every year, who is watching, who is responsible, and what protections exist if this fails.

Thank you.

Lingzi Chen

Reporter @ Lake County News