

Peter Berle

Please relay to Chairman Gustavo Alanis-Ortega, and members and former members of JPAC my strong support for the recent advice to Council relating to the maintenance of the NAFEC.

As a member of JPAC, I was involved in the establishment of the Fund and participated in every grant-making meeting from the beginning, through 2001. The integration of the grants with CEC programs provides local support and a reality test for CEC program objectives. Also NAFEC grantees give CEC an understanding of what is happening at the community level, that can make for more effective programs.

While I am not familiar with the full CEC budget proposal, cutting some of the extensive travel costs to provide funds for NAFEC seems reasonable.