

Letters to the editor: Kirk spreads disinformation; support for Fairgrounds stadium

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Benefits of minor league stadium

Re: Arlene Martinez's Jan. 31 guest column, "[Fairgrounds stadium is off-base](#)":

I read Ms. Martinez's guest column and could not disagree more.

Last summer I trekked across Southern California to see the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes. I saw a stadium full of families, Little League baseball players, teens and young adults on date night, and seniors, all enjoying the game. The parking was easy and accessible and a very enjoyable experience. I later stopped in the area for food and gas as I was leaving. This was all done much more cheaply than heading to Dodger Stadium and trying to park in the area.

Ms. Martinez makes some sort of jump to taxpayer-funded stadiums using major league examples. How did this get in the conversation? I see her sources for not being economic developers. But, as noted with her major league example, where area does this come from? In recent years I watched the St. Paul Saints develop a great fan following with private money and redevelop an area of town that needed it while in the shadow of the Minnesota Twins.

We have a Fairgrounds that needs extensive work and doesn't have the money. Almost every building needs a new roof. Where is that money? It gets short-term clients with no long-term economic plan. The loss of the gun shows (and I'm leaving the other issues out of it) is a financial loss and I don't think the Strawberry Festival will cover it. The Fair Board doesn't want to lose control. How does one make up the \$500,000 that walked out the door during the Fair?

With the developer, the grounds still support the Fair, is available for concerts and year-round events, and maintenance and upkeep get done. It would give me a reason to go to Ventura. Yeah, I'm a baseball fan.

Timothy Combs, Oxnard