

# County supervisor waxes poetic to ease tension

By **SAM RICHARDS** | [srichards@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:srichards@bayareanewsgroup.com) |

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**MARTINEZ** — Things were a little tense in the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors meeting room last Tuesday when the supes took up whether to give the operators of Keller Canyon landfill near Pittsburg more time to conform to rules governing the handling of construction waste. After all, the dump operators had sued the county last year over it.

So before that discussion was taken up anew Tuesday morning, County Supervisor John Gioia tried to lighten the mood a little bit — with poetry.



“It’s to add a little levity,” said Gioia, who noted he shares a surname with California’s poet laureate, Dana Gioia (no relation).

So before the supervisors delved into the contentious issue, Gioia asked to read his poem. “Stop the clocks for 180 days/That’ll give us time to work through the maze/Reduce our risk, recycle more/If we don’t succeed, there will be war.”

The poem did seem to lighten the mood for a few moments, but the verses’ stated goal — extending the deadline for the county and the landfill operators to work out a solution for dealing with the construction waste — was not achieved. While Gioia and Candace Andersen voted for a five-month compliance extension, to Aug. 31, fellow supes Federal Glover, Karen Mitchoff and Diane Burgis voted to preserve the original March 22 deadline.