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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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Republican Perspective

By John Littig

First, Stop the Flood

My wife and I lived in a downstairs condo, and the unit above ours was temporarily vacant. We had gone away for a few days. When we returned and opened the front door, there was an odd smell. We walked in, and as we walked on the carpets we saw that we were leaving footprints. Squishy footprints. The carpets throughout much of the condo were wet. Very wet.

We quickly figured out that there was water coming into our unit from upstairs, above our furnace and water heater enclosure. We had been flooded, and the flooding was continuing. What to do?

Obviously, job one was to stop the flow of water entering our living space. We did not have a key to the unit above us. Fortunately, the Mutual's contractor was nearby and he was able to get in by removing a window. He found that the water heater above us had failed and was the source of the flood. He turned off the water and removed the gushing water heater. (For readers living outside the fence, the Mutual is essentially a homeowners association.)

At that point, the Mutual initiated a comprehensive plan to resolve the problem.

To start, they brought in a water-damage cleanup company, which pulled up the carpet and installed industrial strength fans and a de-humidifier. The machinery was deafening--like living on an airport runway. This was begun immediately and lasted about a week.

Later, after we were dried out, they sent a carpet cleaning company which, after several attempts, admitted defeat. So the Mutual then replaced the damaged carpet.

Finally, they re-taped, re-textured, and repainted where the ceiling and walls were damaged.

So, in the end, their comprehensive plan worked and our lives were - after a couple of months - back to normal.

But notice the sequence of events here. First, they had to stop the flow at the source. Then, and only then, did it make any sense to come up with a comprehensive plan to correct the damage.

There's a lesson here - which you knew we were going to get to. The Obama administration should stop demanding a comprehensive plan to deal with the illegal immigration problem. It should first stop the flow of illegals - which has now become a tsunami, largely due to President Obama's announcement of de-facto amnesty for children. Never mind that the amnesty was intended only for those already here. It's widely being interpreted in Central America as an open gate, and it's being sold by the coyotes as a guaranteed "permiso" for all comers.

If the Obama administration were to stop the flood, the Congress and the public would be more receptive to consideration of a comprehensive plan. As long as the president allows the torrent to continue, it's out of the question.

The Mutual did not try to discuss a comprehensive plan with us while we were being flooded. They had the common sense to stop the flood first. So should the president.

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