

Joint Letter

H.O.P.E. of the Mountain Empire  
P.O. Box 188  
Campo, CA 91906

Lake Morena Village Council  
P.O. Box  
Campo, CA 91906

January 10, 2008

Dianne Jacob  
Supervisor, Second District  
San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

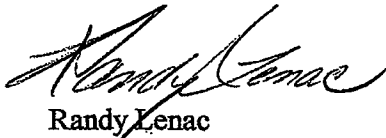
Dear Supervisor Jacob,

H.O.P.E. of the Mountain Empire and the Lake Morena Village Council jointly request a meeting to discuss manning the Lake Morena Fire Department with full-time Cal Fire firefighters. Our volunteer fire department in Lake Morena is presently struggling to provide fire protection and emergency response to our residents and we would welcome discussing with you a solution. Our volunteer department is heroic and manned by dedicated men and women, but it leaves many gaps in coverage. We have watched as Pine Valley recently transitioned to Cal Fire manning their volunteer station and believe a similar program would work well in Lake Morena. We would be willing to sponsor a community town hall meeting to get the public directly involved. Dianne, everyone is appreciative of the wonderful new fire station that we have and the relatively new equipment, but the unspoken truth is we have insufficient volunteers to man the equipment and nothing is being done about providing our community this basic coverage.

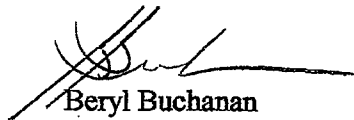
An informal conversation with John Francois who is presently the Battalion Chief for the Campo and has operational control of the Lake Morena Fire Department indicates that this is very doable with County support. We know that you are a proponent of a County-wide fire fighting organization. We believe that adding Lake Morena to the growing list of Cal Fire operated stations would strengthen the overall argument for consolidation as well as answer our immediate fire protection needs.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to future discussions about this important topic.

Respectfully,



Randy Lenac  
Chairman  
H.O.P.E. of the Mountain Empire  
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478-5403



Beryl Buchanan  
Chairman  
Lake Morena Village Council  
[beryl.buchanan@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:beryl.buchanan@sdcountry.ca.gov)  
478-1278

Copy to: Pete Scully, John Francois, and Dave Nissen



# County of San Diego

## PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP

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Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board  
Child Support Services  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
Medical Examiner  
Office of Emergency Services  
Probation  
Public Defender

March 11, 2008

Beryl Buchanan  
Chairman  
Lake Morena Village Council  
P.O. Box 58  
Campo, CA 91906

Dear Mr. Buchanan:

I am responding to you at the request of Supervisor Jacob and the County's Chief Administrative Officer, Walt Ekard.

The fire service consolidation process has been ongoing for many years. The Chief Administrative Officer has assembled a team of County managers to assess fire protection in the unincorporated areas. This team will carefully analyze all possible options resulting in an enhanced fire service.

The County is committed to continue to improve fire protection within the unincorporated areas of the County. Expanded use of CalFire contracts is one of many strategies that are being examined as part of this process. We appreciate your input, and have forwarded your letter to the team conducting the assessment, so that they can take your insights into consideration.

Please be patient as we carefully analyze how to best protect our County's most vulnerable areas. We anticipate this issue will be back before the Board of Supervisors in the early summer.

Regards,

Steve Lujan,  
CAO Staff Officer

Cc: Diane Quinones, CAO Staff Officer  
Heather Dauler, Project Manager