



DIANNE JACOB
CHAIRWOMAN
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: July 27, 2004

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: BOARD CONFERENCE: PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN TO MAKE THE REGION SAFER SINCE THE OCTOBER 2003 WILDFIRES (DISTRICT: ALL)

SUMMARY:

Overview

Despite the unthinkable amount of damage and vegetation loss that resulted from the October 2003 wildfires, over two-thirds of San Diego County was left untouched. It is not a matter of if a firestorm will happen again; it is only a matter of when. As we learned first hand during the disaster and in the reports that followed, there was a litany of inadequacies in our emergency response system at the time of the fires.

The question that all of us have struggled with since the fires - how do we prevent this kind of devastation from happening again? It has been eight months since the flames were extinguished and progress has been made on many fronts to make this region better prepared.

Today's action will establish a Board of Supervisors Conference on September 29, 2004 for the purpose of providing agencies the opportunity to report to the public on actions taken to make this region safer from wildfires. Invited to participate will be each local, state, and federal agency that is a part of the collective response to a large-scale wildfire.

Recommendation(s)

CHAIRWOMAN JACOB:

1. Designate September 29, 2004 as a Board Conference for the purposes of reviewing the progress that has been made to make the region more fire safe since the October 2003 Wildfires.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Chair's signature, inviting the appropriate local, state and federal agencies to the Board Conference.

Board Conference: Progress Report On Actions Taken To Make The Region Safer Since The October 2003 Wildfires (District: All)

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact resulting from these actions.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

Despite the unthinkable amount of damage and vegetation loss that resulted from the October 2003 wildfires, over two-thirds of San Diego County was left untouched. It is not a matter of if a firestorm will happen again; it is only a matter of when. As we learned first hand during the disaster and in the reports that followed, there was a litany of inadequacies in our emergency response system at the time of the fires.

The question that all of us have struggled with since the fires - how do we prevent this kind of devastation from happening again? It has been eight months since the flames were extinguished and progress has been made on many fronts to make this region better prepared.

As the governing body for the San Diego region, it is appropriate for the Board of Supervisors to host a Conference to take a candid review of what has been done to better protect lives and property from future wildland fires. Invited to participate will be each local, state, and federal agency that is a part of the collective response to a large-scale wildfire.

Some of the agencies to be invited, in addition to County Departments, will include:

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- United States Forest Service
- United States Marine Corps
- United States Navy
- Local Fire Protection Agencies
- Sheriff's Department
- State Office of Emergency Services
- State Insurance Commissioner's Office
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- FEMA
- SBA
- Disaster Relief Organizations

Some of the topics that will be discussed:

- Fire Protection Resources
- Communication Systems
- Vegetation Management

Board Conference: Progress Report On Actions Taken To Make The Region Safer Since The October 2003 Wildfires (District: All)

Evacuation and Notification
Immediate and Long-Term Victim Assistance
Building Code Requirements

Today's action will establish a Board of Supervisors Conference on September 29, 2004 for the purpose of providing agencies the opportunity to report to the public on actions taken to make this region safer from wildfires. I urge your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Chairwoman

Board Conference: Progress Report On Actions Taken To Make The Region Safer Since The October 2003 Wildfires (District: All)

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT: All

COUNTY COUNSEL APPROVAL: Form and Legality Yes N/A
 Resolution Standard Ordinance

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER/AUDITOR REVIEW: Yes N/A
4 VOTES: Yes No

CONTRACT REVIEW PANEL Approved N/A

CONTRACT NUMBER(S):

PREVIOUS RELEVANT APPLICABLE:

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

CITIZEN COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

CONCURRENCE(S):

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors, District Two

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