

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Terry Dressler, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Bobbie Bratz, 961-8890

SUBJECT: Letters of Appreciation to County Fire and Public Health Departments

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and sign the following:

Attachment A, Letter from APCD Board Chair to Santa Barbara County Public Health Director Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, and

Attachment B, Letter from APCD Board Chair to Santa Barbara County Fire Chief John Scherrei

DISCUSSION:

In 2007 the Zaca Fire, California's second largest wildfire, affected Santa Barbara County air quality significantly. During the fire in July and August, 2007, and again during the high wind events of October and December, the APCD staff worked closely and cooperatively with the County Fire Department and County Public Health Department to advise residents about the active fire and effects of smoke and ash on public health.

We have prepared letters of appreciation to the County Fire and Public Health departments to formally thank their staff and express our appreciation for the cooperative partnerships we developed in 2007.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Chair to sign letters and return to Clerk for mailing and distribution.

March 20, 2008

John Scherrei, Fire Chief
Santa Barbara County Fire Department
4410 Cathedral Oaks Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Dear Chief Scherrei:

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Board appreciates the efforts of you and your staff during the 2007 Zaca Fire. Your staff, particularly Fire Department Public Information Officer Eli Iskow, were instrumental team members in assessing and providing information to the public about the health and safety impacts of smoke and ash during the fire.

As California's second largest wildfire, and one of the most dramatic air quality events in our county's history, the Zaca Fire provided new and unique challenges for informing the public in a timely matter about the status of the fire and air quality.

APCD staff have found a new air quality outreach partner in Captain Eli Iskow. The cooperative and collaborative approach Captain Iskow brings to the job is truly a breath of fresh air.

We look forward to working together in the future.

Sincerely,

Lupe Alvarez, Chair
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors

cc: Michael F. Brown, SBC Chief Executive Officer
Captain Eli Iskow, SBC Fire Department
Terry Dressler, SBC Air Pollution Control Officer

March 20, 2008

Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH
Santa Barbara County Public Health Department
300 North San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Dear Dr. Schulman:

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Board appreciates the efforts of you and your staff during the 2007 Zaca Fire. We appreciate you and your staff, particularly Michele Mickiewicz and Susan Klein-Rothschild, in working collaboratively with the Air Pollution Control District to bring a united air quality message to Santa Barbara County residents.

As California's second largest wildfire, and one of the most dramatic air quality events in our county's history, the Zaca Fire provided new and unique challenges for informing the public in a timely matter about the status of the fire and air quality.

The press releases and health advisories, issued jointly, provided a single, united message to residents and the news media about the status of our air quality and the precautions everyone needed to consider. Working together, our agencies were able to keep the messages clear and timely.

APCD staff appreciate the new air quality outreach partners Michele Mickiewicz and Susan Klein-Rothschild. The cooperative and collaborative approach they bring to the job is truly a breath of fresh air. We look forward to working together in the future.

Sincerely,

Lupe Alvarez, Chair
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors

cc: Michael F. Brown, SBC Chief Executive Officer
Michele Mickiewicz, Deputy Director, SBC Public Health Department
Susan Klein-Rothschild, Assistant Public Health Director, SBC Public Health Department
Terry Dressler, SBC Air Pollution Control Officer