

## ATTACHMENT 4

September 22, 2008

Dear Mr. Peter Maurer:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in bringing our county's General Plan, and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) into compliance with Assembly Bills 2140 and SB 1764 which govern the amount of money the State of California can legally reimburse a local jurisdiction during and after a disaster level event.

In past disaster events, we and other counties in the state have been successful in receiving 100 percent reimbursement for our disaster response costs and recovery projects, which is far better than the standard 75 percent allotment. Over the course of the last few years, California and other states have seen a dramatic increase in the number of disaster events each costing millions if not billions in some cases for jurisdictions to recover. With that in mind, state government officials have begun to take a very close look at why so many homes are destroyed, people injured or worse, and what action local jurisdictions are taking to correct the problem. What they found was that lessons learned from past disasters were not being included in General Plans and zoning ordinances as a means of preventing, and or mitigating future impacts from disaster events on new building and sub-divisions. To correct this problem and motivate local officials to take a proactive stance, AB2140 was brought into law on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

AB 2140 does not require us to do anything to retain our 75 percent allotment; however, if we want to receive 100 percent reimbursement for response costs and recovery projects we must do the following:

- a. Have a FEMA approved LHMP that identifies potential disaster level events that can impact our county, and includes policies, objectives and measures for prevention and mitigation. This has been done.
- b. To conduct specific studies to identify critical public facilities-infrastructure, and private facilities that are at some measured degree of peril, (low, moderate, and high) from a particular type of disaster event. This study is almost complete.
- c. That our county's Board of Supervisors (BOS) have by resolution included our LHMP into the county's "Safety" section of the General Plan. Note: I have spoken with the State OES Mitigation Officer who will ultimately make the decision on whether we are in compliance with AB 2140 or not, and he said they would like to see from us a resolution from the BOS stating that our LHMP has been adopted into the "Safety" section of our county's General Plan.

SB 1764 was recently passed and will take affect on January 1, 2009 and it has somewhat modified AB 2140. SB 1764 does not require us to do (item b.) above but there is still the requirement for us to include the LHMP into the county General Plan.

I would appreciate your help in moving forward with this project, and eventually bringing us into compliance with the above laws so we can still attain 100 percent reimbursement when disaster strikes.

Sincerely,

Marty Hackett  
Sheriff's Lieutenant  
Office of Emergency Services