

March 11, 2009

Dear Supervisor John Knight:

I am a resident of El Dorado County and am served by the Pioneer Fire Protection District.

I request that you support the continuation of funding for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services (also known as the "parity" fire protection funding) to our District at its current level.

This funding is **CRITICAL** in order for our fire district to continue to provide the level of service that it currently does. The Pioneer Fire Protection District serves an estimated population of 8,000 and covers 296 square miles (187,000 acres). The District responded to 667 calls for service in 2008. This call-for-service volume has increased consistently from 515 in 2007 and 504 in 2006. All these calls have been handled (and residents and transient population served) by ONE 24/7 staffed engine company (full-time paid personnel) and a part-time engine company staffed with resident firefighters. The District is run very efficiently and fiscally responsibly by Chief Robert Gill and two administrative staff.

If Pioneer Fire Protection District's share of the "parity" fire protection funding (\$279,000) is eliminated, or even reduced, the effects on the District and its residents would be significant and devastating. The loss of Pioneer FPD's share would be the loss of almost ONE THIRD of its operating budget and would affect EVERYTHING within the District:

- This money is used for day-to-day operation of the Fire District.
- Response times within the District would increase.
- There would be reductions in FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL.
- With a smaller department and longer response times, the ISO insurance rating for the district would potentially be affected, therefore increasing insurance costs (or even cancellation of policies) for the District's residents.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Ruth Tomlin
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