

From:
Address:

Date:

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Dear Representative:

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I am a resident impacted by the recent Ranch 2 fire. Fires in the San Gabriel Mountains/Angeles National Forest are evermore commonplace. Even those not in immediate proximity to the fire have been impacted by smoke, burning eyes and bad air quality. These incidents cannot continue. In solidarity with my neighbors, and the adjacent cities of Azusa, Bradbury, Duarte and Irwindale, I write you to solicit your immediate and urgently needed support.

For all our surrounding communities, every fire that occurs increases the risk of:

- Residents losing their homes, experiencing injury or the potential loss of life
- Killing wildlife and destroying wildlife habitat
- Aggravating ground water contamination
- Endangering protected species
- Diminishing the ability to acquire or renew affordable homeowners' insurance

The observable conditions of the Riverbed Occupiers in the San Gabriel Flood Control Basin are:

- Unsafe and unsanitary conditions, i.e., hazardous makeshift campfires, excessive heat exposure, risk of injury or death from flash flooding, no potable water, no restrooms, uncontained human waste and trash.
- Riverbed Occupiers are constantly setting off fires; and, since this most recent fire, these people are at severe risk of losing their lives by the mudflow from Roberts Creek into the riverbed.
- In the parks adjacent to the riverbed, trash cans are filled to the brim with the bottoms rotted out, and the excess flying about in the wind, causing pollution to the river water and the riverbed.

This is a persistent and highly dangerous situation.

Fires are exhausting local, county, state, and federal resources with increasing frequency and enormously escalating costs. Equally impacted are the human resources of the agencies tasked to combat the fires. There is no lack of evidence to demonstrate the grave consequences already experienced by the Riverbed Occupiers, our endangered communities and our public service agencies:

- Fires to forests/residences/businesses/recreational areas/public utility assets
- Emergency rescues of the injured
- Deaths by drowning in the flood channel
- Overuse of resources: terrestrial/aerial firefighting, rescue and policing
- Repeated redirected financial resources at all levels of government for less than adequate mitigations

I acknowledge the complexity and sensitivity of these demands. There is no intent to disregard the challenge the Riverbed Occupiers face. The question of where to send these individuals exists side-by-side with any suggestion of eviction. The riverbed, though, cannot be even a temporary solution. "Out of sight, out of mind" ignores the serious consequences that loom in inaction. Organizational support for mental health, job training, shelter and healthcare must be the fundamental and primary solutions.

Local, county, state, and federal resources need to act now. More of the same will only aggravate what is already unacceptable. An action plan, with short-term and long-term solutions and corresponding milestones for task completions, is needed.

Eagerly and sincerely awaiting your timely response,

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