



Seal Rock Fire District

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Central Oregon Coast Fire and rescue District

Attn: Buster Pankey

Kathryn Menefee

2/21/22

Dear Fellow Committee Members,

First, we would like to acknowledge that both Buster and Kathryn have been a pleasure to deal with and any doubts we may have had them have vanished.

Before we started meeting, Rimola and Kowalski had doubts generated from Central Coast Fire board meeting of 1/6/22 and the character assassination directed at the Seal Rock Board by their Chief, Jamie Mason, as well as a similar posture with communications between our Chief Ewing and Mason.

The verbiage shows a total disregard for our district by Mason and seems to reflect an arrogance that we are somehow an inferior district.

The inferences that our district is unsafe as well a refusal to admit that 2/3rds of the combined calls are in Central Coast, in our opinion, are telling. The sad fact is that if we did not respond to all the calls in Central Coast Fire our fuel bill and other associated costs, as well as stress on personal would drop by a similar amount and we may just be better off.

The comments Mason made about annexing Bayshore, the divisive rhetoric that I can only interpret as a campaign to have Bayshore annex into Central Coast are concerning. His rhetoric and misinformation only fuel a picture that the Seal Rock does not provide proper protection to Bayshore residents and that presentation is totally libelous, false, unprofessional, and serves no good. The comments, however, paint a false negative picture of our district to bolsterer Central Coast's position about the IGA.

Let s us remind everyone that annexation is resident driven and is subject to a petition by the residents and a vote by both districts. I am not certain that campaigning of one district by another to annex is even legal. I hope that Mason does not think he can wave a magic wand and take over Bayshore.

These statements are nothing more than weaponizing a non-issue, similar to the weaponizing of the IGA agreement the second we questioned it.

We found the veiled threat in one of the emails from Mason to Ewing that he is going to hire two more firefighters to solve your manpower problems and, I am paraphrasing, we will not be needed.

Our own philosophy, looking at the long view, is that if Seal Rock hires more fire fighters using a Safer Grant has unintended consequences. Most certainly, we do not believe we could guarantee such a grant and do not want to put the cart before the horse and pre hire anyone. We also know if we are successful in winning a grant, that in three years we would be faced with the fact that we either have to ask for a levy to fund those firefighters or lay them off and be right back where we were. One reason we have not cut off talks is that we want to hear what you think about this as well as see if you think hiring two firefighters at Central Coast will permanently solve your personal problem. If so, it may be better if we just go back to Mutual Aid.

I know that you heard from Chief Mason that the other districts think we are not qualified to be in the Mutual Aid group. Not only is this false, that type of information is actionable. It seems a little arrogant to think that one department can tell any other departments to act in such a way. Shameful, in fact, and those type of comments serve no purpose other than to smear our fire district.

Now that we have the opportunity to talk with you, we know that you are honorable and earnest individuals. We did note the comments that were made by your board on January 6th, but the only information that you were given was the information your Chief Mason was giving you. Frankly, in that vacuum we may have said the same thing. We know that you do not necessarily buy into these claims but we would welcome your comments about said claims.

If we continue forward on this project, we need to address the "elephant in the room". Your Chief Mason has, for the most part, poisoned the well with his comments and we have no confidence that if we come to an agreement that Chief Mason will implement the agreement or even cooperate during the negotiations. During our next meeting we need to discuss this in detail. The sad part about this is that will take up valuable time that should be devoted to the agreements itself.

Looking forward to meeting with you on 1/23/22.

Sincerely,

Karl Kowalski

Paul Rimola

