



Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire Department

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Don Dale Fire Chief



September 15, 2017

To: Supervisor Carre Brown
From: Brendan Turner
Fire Chief (Acting)

Dear Supervisor Brown,

I am writing this letter in the hopes that you will reconsider your position on proceeding with the RFP for fire and EMS dispatch services in Mendocino County on September 19th at the Board of Supervisors meeting. After more than twenty years in both fire and EMS, I am very concerned about the possible outcome of this process. Calfire is not only currently providing a quality dispatch center but also has taken a proactive role in correcting concerns from the County's fire chiefs.

Although I am glad to see that our elected officials are keeping a close watch on associated costs in this matter, the cost could be far greater at the expense of the safety of our firefighters and the tax payers we serve. The dispatch services we currently are receiving are far superior to what I believe will be presented in an EMS focused RFP. The current command center is staffed with a Fire Officer at all times which differentiates it from a communications center. This allows for the command center to modify a dispatch prior to the first arriving scene personnel based on information taken during a call or local knowledge. This will not be the case with a private dispatch center and in some situations, could put lives and property in jeopardy.

I applaud those involved in the monumental task of providing advanced life support services to all Mendocino County residents. This, however, is not at all dependent on the dispatch RFP. The local EMS agency currently has oversight over EMS related dispatch quality assurance. We face many other situations in Mendocino County in addition to EMS calls for service that demand a high level of coordination for a positive outcome. This can only be accomplished at this time by continuing the contract with Calfire for our dispatch services. The Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire District, the county fire communications committee, the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs and the "boots on the ground" all feel very strongly on this matter and I again ask for reconsideration on this matter. Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brendan Turner
Fire Chief (Acting)

Board of Directors

Jim Tusio Linda Talso Leo Bleier Steven Rugg Keith Grayson Karyn Abshire, Clerk