

November 1, 1982

TO: HEAD DEPUTY FORESTER ARTHUR M. ARNDT  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF GEORGE DEMOS ( IN TURN)

FROM: SENIOR DEPUTY FORESTER KLAUS RADTKE K.R.

SUBJ: HOMEOWNER MEETING - PUBLIC FIELD CONTACTS

After my reassignment last Friday to the LAO as well as my removal from public field contact I requested and was granted permission by Acting Head Deputy Forester Bob Johnson to cancel my present commitments.

I informed Pearl Sloan of the Topanga-Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District that I could not keep my three day old commitment to be available for professional advise to homeowners in the Dayton Fire Area (Malibu Canyon Homeowner Association) for a special meeting at 8:00 PM, November 3. The reason I gave was that I had been reassigned to the LAO as of now and would not be handling any public field contacts.

Sunday, October 31, a member of the homeowner organization committee called me at home and requested, then insisted that I reconsider and be present in person because of my practical expertise in watershed and fire safety. I declined, saying that I am bound by Department orders. When I was told that several of the people had lost their home in the recent fire and others may lose their homes in the winter floods I stressed that I, both as mountain homeowner and professional forester, had done much volunteer work in the Santa Monica Mountains. I would therefore try to be at the meeting on a volunteer basis since both loss of life and property are at stake. I again stressed that other foresters are available for similar services and can be contacted through our LAO headquarters or the Malibu nursery. However, the homeowner representative was not satisfied with this explanation.

Please note that I have a reputation of hard work and positive cooperation with the public. My stern, swift removal from public field contacts, especially after life threatening emergencies of fire and flood, raises questions in the public's mind as to my own and my Department's professional integrity and may lead to confrontations with the Department if I volunteer my services.

Please reconsider the directive of October 29, and perhaps make it a phased-in removal from public field contacts. However, I do understand that the action, in this case, may have been so swift in preparation of this week's Skelly letter for the writing of the booklet "A Homeowner's Guide ...". It was published under the past cooperative Forest Service agreement.

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