

September 29, 1982

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

FROM: SENIOR DEPUTY FORESTER KLAUS RADTKE K.R.

SUBJECT: REPRINTING OF HOMEOWNER GUIDE

I have been informed that the Board of Supervisors, on September 22, by unanimous vote, passed a motion authorizing the funding and reprinting of 25,000 copies of the booklet, "A Homeowner's Guide to Fire and Watershed Management at the Chaparral/Urban Interface."

I am pleased that our Department and Forestry Division have received recognition for a job well done. I am also appreciative of the positive state-wide response as reflected in the many comments we received and the contemplated reprinting by other agencies. However, to date I am still somewhat puzzled about the very negative attitude from within our Department as reflected in the internal investigation of both the Head Deputy Forester and me, the reluctant and very limited public distribution of the booklet by our own Department as well as other incidents.

The many rumors I have heard in the field since June 29 also do not reflect well on our Department. For example, the rumor that the Chief is personally opposed to the booklet, to the logos, to the credits, to the introduction, to me, or Forestry, etc., and that possible changes contemplated in the technical section of the booklet are to mask these other proposed changes.

We should lay such rumors to rest as unfounded because, after a four-week review by our Department, Deputy Fire Chief George Demos on July 26 issued a memo about the booklet that only stressed one possible point of concern (either positive or negative) to the Department, namely roof sprinklers. To date, I have not heard of any other possible changes and have also not found any written policy or policy change by our Department within the last year regarding roof sprinklers. In an August 3 memo I pointed out that the booklet, as a

Head Deputy Forester Arthur Arndt  
September 29, 1982  
Page 2

County (as well as Forest Service) publication, is a condensed version and contains excerpts from the PSW General Technical Report, "Living More Safely at the Chaparral-Urban Interface." I developed and wrote this paper for the Forest Service under a cooperative research agreement with the County of Los Angeles. Both books were written for state-wide distribution, and the latter refers to roof or overhead sprinklers as a means to protect homes from wildfire and gives literature citations (U.C. Cooperative Extension Service Leaflet 2403).

If the County printing proceeds without any change, the booklet will continue to have state-wide appeal. The combination of all orders into one large-scale order as well as the cost savings of not requiring new plates could provide net cost savings to the taxpayer that could exceed the cost of the initial publication! (This initial cost even included design, layout, typesetting, black and white and color plates, etc.)

You may remember that the cost overruns of the initial printing resulted in further questioning of me by the Department and provided reasons for initially delaying payment to the printers, perhaps even providing one reason for rejecting payment by the County Purchasing Agent. The Department, the County Purchasing Agent and the Board of Supervisors may therefore be pleased to know that such large savings result from cooperation with other agencies and using the existing plates.

KR:m