



MERIT
Post Office Box 665
Campo, CA 91906

Sponsor Group meeting 7PM
July 24 Campo Community
Center

Is the
Camp
Lockett
State Park
a good
thing and
do you
want it?

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MERIT

Mountain Empire Resources Information Taskforce

Post Office Box 665

Campo, CA 91906-3106

Newsletter #2 - 20 July 2000

CAMPO - People in Campo have proven, time and time again, their ability to come to the aid of their neighbors in time of need or tragedy. This, in spite of the fact that lots of Campo residents came here to be left alone - left alone to enjoy their dark nights and starry skies, for privacy and tranquility, to raise their families away from city lights and noise, and to enjoy the rural lifestyle. Many of us drive long distances on bumpy rut-filled roads preferring this (with tongue in cheek) to preserve the ruralness of the area.

Still other residents enjoy the community spirit and support the various activities that are available. Many are members of (and volunteer for) the Railroad Museum, the antique Truck Museum, Friends of the Library, Mountain Empire Historical Society, Campo School PTA. And Campo has its own community service organizations. In addition, Mountain Health Center is active in supporting and providing community services. They are part of a group of local residents currently working as the Back Country Revitalization Committee to help in the planning to revitalize Campo with some new social services.

Over 100 people came to the Sponsor Group meeting on June 25th and voiced their opinions regarding several Campo issues; road conditions and classifications including Buckman Springs, Highway 94 and La Posta Road, communication towers, WATER and GROWTH. One Campo rancher presented information regarding the sand mining operations on the La Posta Indian Reservation that is generating substantial truck traffic and is disturbing riparian areas. And we learned that Otay Water District is considering tapping into Jamul's water well aquifer to find more water sources for their customers. We were also informed that City of San Diego is drawing water out of Lake Morena and selling it to the Otay District. Two articles on the serious water conditions have appeared recently in the Union Tribune. MERIT plans to provide information in coming months regarding groundwater, grading/mining, soil and groundcover conservation and how this affects our wells.

No, the sky is not falling, but we recommend that you periodically test the water level in your wells. You may already be doing this test, but if you are not and you are worried about it, we can help you. MERIT can provide you with a simple test instrument and instructions on the proper procedure. The instrument will be provided at cost for about \$20.00. People who depend on water wells should know if anything is changing - for better, for worse or if there is no change. Write MERIT or ask a MERIT member at the Sponsor Group meeting.

Campo Fire and Rescue This volunteer group needs our support, needs donations and needs volunteers. Their meetings are normally the third Monday of each month at 7:30PM at the Fire Station which is across from the Post Office. The August meeting has been rescheduled to August 29th due to a number of Board members being on vacation earlier in the month. The public is welcome at all meetings. Several Campo residents and a St. Vincent de Paul representative serve on the board. Elections for new Board members are scheduled for the August meeting.

Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group The next meeting is scheduled for Monday July 24th at 7:00PM. A speaker from the County will explain and discuss the East County Multiple Species Conservation Plan and how it might impact Campo. Further discussion of components of the General Plan 2020, also know as GP2020, will be on the agenda including the questions of designating certain area roads as scenic highways, discussions of view sheds and development on slopes, ridges and peaks, and the need for more or less land designated as commercial or industrial. A DPLU map showing the recommended minimum acreage for development of all parcels under GP2020 will be available for review and discussion. A map showing the proposed boundaries of Camp Lockett State Park will also be available. And there is always time for public discussion.

Campo is growing. We even have a new stop sign at Cameron Corners. No lines at the ATM yet. Let your voice be heard as decisions are made on what the growth will be.