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Should anyone outside of Campo and
Lake Morena be deciding our future ?

POSTAL PATRON

CAMPO, CA 91906

Important information on our water
supply included with this newsletter

MERIT

Mountain Empire Resources Information Taskforce

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Newsletter #6 - 23 September 2000

In keeping with our purpose to inform the community regarding newsworthy events, MERIT would like to remind our readers that **Friends of the Library** meet every third Thursday at 9:30AM at the Campo Community Building. Visitors are welcome. Volunteers are appreciated. Also, book sales take place each Wednesday, as staffing allows, in front of the Library with the proceeds benefitting our Library. Last Friday the Library received \$50,000 from Supervisor Dianne Jacob's discretionary funds for design work for a new library building.

Also important is the Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group meeting on Monday, September 25th at 7:00PM in the

Community Building. On the agenda are continuing discussions about General Plan 2020. Decisions are due in a few weeks and the meetings during the remainder of the year will greatly influence those decisions!

CAMPO YOUTH: Concerned that our youth do not have sufficient activities an/or employment? The U.S.Border Patrol has an Explorer Scout program for boys and girls ages 14-20. Call 478-5444 ext 306, ask for Vince Clark. Also, Campo Fire & Rescue operates an Explorer Scout program for girls and boys ages 14-21. At age 18 they may become volunteer firefighters. Call 478-5310 for more details. Note: Both scouting programs offer excellent opportunities to develop social skills and good character, as well as building work experience that can lead to careers in law enforcement and fire fighting.

Do not forget to vote in the election on Tuesday November 7th. If you are not registered to vote, there is still time. Registration forms must be received no later than October 10th. Forms are available at the Campo Post Office.

On the November ballot will be a Campo initiative, Proposition JJ, for adding \$65.00 per dwelling per year to support Campo Fire & Rescue. This tax would be for three (3) years and it would expire in 2003. Voters would have to approve any extension of the tax. This initiative is only for Campo and does not include Lake Morena.

Please note that our firefighters are all **volunteers** and they are either paramedics or EMT's; they supply their own uniforms, gas, food and any other expenses, plus give their personal time to serve the Campo community. San Diego County has no mandate to provide to provide fire protection to Campo or other rural areas. The County does allocate our volunteer department approximately \$16,000 for operating expenses which barely covers operational expenses for fuel for the engines when responding to emergencies. If we were not in a rural area, our share of property taxes allocated for fire protection would be approximately \$100,000. If it were not for donations and fund raisers, the department would not exist. California Department of Forestry (CDF), Campo station, has a full staff during fire season - but it does not operate in Campo year round. Although they have a "skeleton" crew available during the non-fire season, there is no weekend coverage for emergencies. Our volunteer fire department is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

The 300+ acre La Posta Ranch development is currently drilling 4 test wells, dozing access roads and doing other grading. No immediate development is planned. The very large, heavily graded area just north of La Posta Ranch is on federal land that is used by Navy Seals for training. Grading on federal land does not require a permit or an EIR. However, some neighbors are concerned about the potential for flooding .

IMPORTANT! Many people outside Campo are deciding our future; developers, politicians, wealthy philanthropists, just to name a few. The only people that should decide Campo's future are Campo residents and property owners. The only people who should decide to take away our rural heritage are Campo people. Voice your opinions about our future.