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MERIT
Post Office Box 665
Campo, CA 91906

Sponsor Group meeting 7PM
October 23rd Campo
Community Center

DO you hear that
“Sucking Sound”
in Campo? Will
you hear it? See
groundwater article
inside.

POSTAL PATRON
CAMPO, CA 91906

MERIT

Mountain Empire Resources Information Taskforce
Post Office Box 665
Campo, CA 91906-3106
619-478-9549

Newsletter #7 - 18 October 2000

Campo/Lake Morena residents have asked what are the goals of MERIT. Our MISSION STATEMENT will be presented each month.

“The primary objectives and purposes of MERIT shall be to provide education and information that will 1) protect and maintain the natural resources, 2) promote responsible use of ground water, and 3) preserve the rural character of the community.”

MERIT encourages Campo and Lake Morena residents to discuss their concerns about water, land development, GP2020, fire safety, the Multiple Species Conservation Program, protecting the special character of our community, etc. when you encounter our members. These include Mike Thometz (President), a resident since 1994 and manager of a recycling plant in San Diego, Brian and Sue Fallgren, who, after working as Child Development Specialists at UCLA Medical Center, retired to property they have owned for 20 years, Gary Watkins (Director), a US Postal Service employee and resident since 1980 who, with his wife Ellen, has raised seven foster children, Brian Elmore, a general contractor and a resident since 1978, Pat Noblitt (Vice President), a resident since 1980, a retired teacher and President of Friends of the Campo Library, Jane Hamilton, a resident for many years and a volunteer for many Campo organizations, Teddy Davis, who first moved to Campo in 1969 and is Corporate Vice President of IMS Recycling Services in San Diego, and Bev (Treasurer) and Wes Esry, retired after many years in business in San Diego County.

This month's meeting of the Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group is Monday, October 23rd at 7PM in the Campo Community Center. Aaron Barling, Department of Planning and Land Use, will be there to answer questions and address concerns generated at last month's meeting about GP2020. If needed, the entire meeting will be available to question Aaron. This session will be critical since the proposed maps of

GP2020 will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for their initial review on November 13th and 27th. Time permitting other agenda items include a **Moratorium** on development until GP202 is enacted, an update on local projects, an update on Camp Lockett State Park and the Lake Morena Community Center and Playground, further discussion on specifics of GP2020 for our area, and Standing Rules for the Sponsor Group. Both GP2020 and the Moratorium issue are important - BE THERE - BE HEARD.

November 7th - Tuesday - Election Day Do not forget to vote. This is an election in which every vote is critical. The Presidential election appears to be a 50/50 proposition that could be decided by less than one vote per precinct nationwide. We have an important issue on the ballot for Campo residents which is Proposition JJ to fund activities of Campo Fire and Rescue. The importance of your vote is shown by the fact in the last election a similar proposition missed a two thirds approval by 4 votes. Please VOTE!

Last month we reported on the 300+ acre **La Posta Ranch development** which was drilling 4 test wells and dozing access roads. They were recently cited for grading without a permit. Per our enclosure last month, grading is a critical issue and can seriously affect the hydrological (water) system. Please see the enclosed article on water reprinted with permission from *The Reader*.

At a Lake Morena Village Council meeting on September 6th representatives of St. Vincent de Paul were asked to present their proposed plans for PromiseLand. Larry Plaster spoke on the project. He indicated that the project would provide employment for some Campo area residents although he and Father Metzdorf will leave after completion of the project (if it is approved). Mr. Plaster was asked if their property would be "tax exempt" and how that "tax exempt" status would affect the Campo Community tax base. The tax base determines how much money our schools, Campo Fire and Rescue and other community services receive. Based on the \$4.6 million appraisal of Tom Dyke Ranch, exempting this from taxes would have a significant impact on our community. Mr. Plaster did not know the status of the property and said he would research the issue and report back later.

When asked how much money SVDP would earn (as a group care provider) to care for foster children, Mr. Plaster indicated he did not know. However, a San Diego Union article (reporting on a proposal to raise the amount of money paid to licensed-home care providers) also noted that the County pays \$3,000 per child per month for group care. This was confirmed by sources in the San Diego County Foster Care system who said that the allocation is between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per child per month depending on the child's emotional and physical needs.

Campo Homemakers Club This non-profit group operates the Campo Thrift Shop on Thursday (12:30 to 3:00) and Saturday (10:00 to 2:00). You can find some wonderful values there among the household items, clothing, kids toys and things, etc. Campo Homemakers use the proceeds to support other Campo groups and services. They are located between the Post Office and the Border Patrol under the eucalyptus trees.

Warnings are being given that the price of propane will exceed \$2 per gallon this winter. Be prepared.