



Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District  
3324 Topeka Street  
Riverbank, CA 95367  
(209) 869-7470  
Fax (209) 869-7475

March 18, 2008

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The Honorable Donald E. Shaver  
Presiding Judge, Superior Court  
Stanislaus County  
P.O. Box 3488  
Modesto, CA 95353

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Judge Shaver,

First, let me express my appreciation to you and the rest of the 07/08 Civil Grand Jury for your work on this issue. I am fully aware of the time commitment and educational process needed to understand and attempt to make recommendations in areas where the subject matter may be foreign to some members of the panel.

We are also very pleased with the Grand Jury commendation regarding stewardship of the taxpayers' funds. The Board of Directors and staff of the Fire District attempt to work diligently regarding proper use of public funds collected within our District. Thank you for recognizing the effort.

I will respond to your recommendations in order.

#### **Recommendation 1**

As mentioned above, Board and staff of the District will continue to be judicious regarding use of taxpayer revenue. This has been and will continue to be one of our top priorities.

#### **Recommendation 2**

The current economic climate is not conducive to another ballot measure at this time. Although nothing is off the table, the Board would rather look at alternatives than additional general taxation of the constituents living in our service area. The following three projects are currently underway:

- The Fire District is currently engaged in developing our first Community Services District in the City of Riverbank. If successful, this model will be used throughout the District to attempt to keep up with the demand for services future growth will have on the District.

- We are also in the process of updating development fees in the District, which has been approved by the Fire District Board of Directors. Our next step is to get the Cities of Riverbank and Waterford, and Stanislaus County to adopt the new fees, since these are the land use policing agencies. We are optimistic the new development fee will be in effect soon.
- The District is also performing a parcel audit to ensure accuracy with the current special assessment. There appears to be some uncollected revenue the District is attempting to capture.

### Recommendation 3

The Fire District plans on retaining a professional negotiator when future negotiations between labor and the District occur.

Sincerely,

**Robert  
DeMont**

Digitally signed by Robert  
DeMont  
DN: cn=Robert DeMont, o=Aero  
Precision Industries, ou,  
email=robert.demont@apiinc.  
net, c=US  
Date: 2008.03.20 08:28:13 -07'00'

Robert DeMont  
SCFPD Board President