

February 2, 2017

Dear Chair Hartmann and Honorable Supervisors:

On behalf of El Capitan Canyon Campground and Resort, and the more than 100 families who are employed there, I want first to express our gratitude to the County's emergency first responders for their heroic response to the flooding of portions of our campground on January 19-20. The dramatic pictures that have been published do not exaggerate the forces unleashed by the Sherpa Fire and its ultimate consequences. We are all extremely grateful that there were no physical injuries to our employees or guests.

We, and our employees have been working around the clock, to stabilize the property, remove debris, and to protect the portions of the campground that were not damaged on January 20 from potential additional damage from new storms which are forecast. We are still in the process of assessing the damage to our facilities and resources, and we are consulting with various experts as to what needs to be done to restore the campground so that we can reopen to the public. We have applied to Planning & Development Department, for an emergency permit for this cleanup and restoration work in the creek, and are in contact with other relevant agencies with potential jurisdiction over the property. We really appreciate the willingness of County planning staff to work with us to identify what we need to do to get this campground open as soon as possible, and to assure continued employment for our 100 + employees, as well as continued contributions to the County's general fund through the Transient Occupancy Tax that we pay.

The campground is private property, but it is an important visitor serving facility on the Gaviota Coast, providing 375 campsites for RV, tent, car and bike camping, employment for over 100 County residents, and millions of dollars in TOT. As we have for the last fifteen years, we will continue to work with your staff to assure that the repairs that we now need to make are done with sensitivity to our location and the resources on our property.

We appreciate the Board's continuing support, the assistance of the Office of Emergency Services and County CEO's office as well as the cooperation of all county departments in assuring that the repairs which we need to make may occur as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your assistance and support.

Roger Himovitz, Terri Bowman and the Entire El Capitan Canyon Family

Letter attached as doc.