



May 15, 2011

**Mr. Curt Pedersen
Chair, Boundary Review Committee
C/o Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Room 383, Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Dear Mr. Petersen-

I am writing to you in my capacity as Vice President of the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP). T-CEP is a nonprofit, volunteer organization whose purpose is to help the Topanga community prepare for and cope with disasters such as wildfires, floods, and earthquakes.

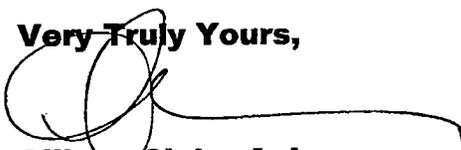
In 1993, California suffered one of the worst fire years in its history. It was November 2nd when the Topanga/Malibu fire blazed for 3 days on a trek from its origin in Old Topanga Canyon to the shores of Malibu and back again through the Santa Monica Mountains. It was a fierce, fast and frightening fire. Residents of Topanga, Malibu, Pacific Palisades and Calabasas found themselves in motels or shelters, separated from their homes, families and pets. They watched the media play guessing games with their lives and fortunes as they listened to the erroneous reports on the progress of the fire. No one could be certain of the outcome until the ordeal was over. A group of like minded individuals decided to take action and T-CEP was born. Through the years our organization has worked with and provided

education to local organizations and homeowner groups located in the cities of Calabasas, Malibu, Agoura Hills and Thousand Oaks. A perfect example of our shared preparedness and planning was our most recent drill.

On May 7th, 2011, The Los Angeles County Fire Department in conjunction with the Third Supervisorial District Office, local law enforcement agencies and the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP) conducted a town wide Topanga Canyon drill. We drew volunteers from sister volunteer organizations in surrounding communities including Arson Watch and CERT Teams. We train and prepare together because we understand that living in the Santa Monica Mountains makes us interdependent when disaster strikes, during a disaster our volunteer hotline operators disseminate information to callers. During the past several incidents a large percentage of the callers seeking accurate information were from surrounding communities.

We truly have a community of interests with our geographic neighbors. Therefore I urge the Committee to retain the present boundaries. Your time and attention to this very important task are greatly appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,



Allison-Claire Acker

Vice President Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness

By way of background, I am also an Advisory Member of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, a founding member of Los Angeles County's Department of Animal Care and Control's Equine Response Team, a Trustee of the Santa Monica Bar Association, a Board Member of the UCLA School of Law Alumni Advisory Group and a member of Los Angeles County's Emergency Task Force working group