

Information presented to
the Commission at the
6-18-14 LAFCO hearing.

Berkeley CA 94709
June 9, 2014

Ms. Kathleen Rollings-McDonald, Executive Officer
Local Agency Formation Commission for San Bernadino County
215 North "D" Street, Suite 204
San Bernardino, CA 91415-0490

Re: LAFCO 3172

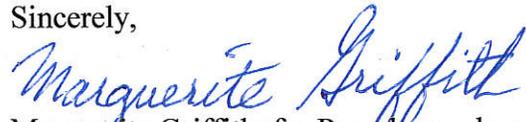
Dear Ms. Rollings-McDonald,

Thank you for the notices of the community meeting, and of the Hearing on June 18, as well as your time on the telephone with me. Because I am committed to a property inspection in Berkeley at 4PM on June 17, and my even-more-elderly-than-I-am siblings and co-owners are unable to travel, and none of us is registered to vote in the affected area, none of us can attend the Hearing or vote on the issue if it comes up for an election. Therefore, we would appreciate your submission of my comments below at the Hearing, in whatever form would be appropriate, so that our "voices" may be heard. (These comments have been endorsed by a family member who is Trustee for one of the co-owners and has recently retired from CalFire as a Captain.)

Although the services of Baldwin Lake VFD have undoubtedly been appreciated by those in need, and everyone should be grateful to Larry Winslow for his effort and financial support of the BLVFD, the following concerns exist:

1. Emergency response people need coordination with other providers of assistance, not independence.
2. Big Bear City's services already must cover a huge area of mountainous terrain and difficult roadways; annexation would dilute their resources and commit the Baldwin Lake community to support services in the combined area without necessarily improving local services to Baldwin Lake.
3. The expectation that Baldwin Lake parcel taxes should be responsible for services in hazardous public areas near the County solid waste landfill (source of many previous fires) and adjacent to State highway 18 (including steep grades and access to an off-road vehicle area) is unreasonable. Big Bear Lake and the County as a whole benefit from activities in, and the very presence of, the Baldwin Lake community and should share in the support of services.
4. A County agency should be better able than small local agencies to assure required training of personnel, coordination of timely responses, and access to State help.

Sincerely,



Marguerite Griffith, for Parcels numbered
314-221-02; 314-341-11; 314-341-12;
314-351-01; and 314-351-02

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San Bernardino County