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**Comments:**

First, thank all of you for the work you do for Sandoval County. We appreciate it. And thank you also for making it easy for citizens to participate through this Public Forum.

My four comments are for the Sandoval County commission meeting regarding an agreement which apparently proposes the replacement of the La Madera Volunteer Fire Department in the East Mountains. It is said that a copy of the proposal is available on the County website but I have been unable to locate it so please excuse me if I have misunderstandings about the proposal:

1. According to the Sandoval County Fire Department Emergency Services Master Plan of May 2016 posted on Sandoval County's web site, the fire suppression budget in New Mexico has been hard-pressed for years and is getting worse. Having a dozen or more highly trained but unpaid volunteers on hand seems beneficial to the County. According to the 2016 Master Plan, the Sandoval County "Volunteer Firefighters per 1,000 Population" is slightly above average, which is a good thing. The Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) does not believe Sandoval County's volunteer staff is too large; in fact, according to the ESCI Master Plan the volunteer ranks should be increased.
2. We are now entering our fire season which makes the proposed reduction in local personnel and equipment especially ill-advised.
3. In District 16, the La Madera region of the East Mountains is served by a single road, and the chaos generated by mixing emergency vehicles with citizen traffic during a serious fire emergency makes the presence of local fire fighters and equipment even more critical than in the city. Small changes in response time have an exaggerated effect on fire losses.
4. A change this profound deserves public input and discussion. I know it takes more time and trouble, but you will be doing Sandoval County a great favor by carefully listening to all the public pros and cons before carefully making your own decision without being rushed by a deadline.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for your public service.