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Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

Independent Operational Review

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has initiated an independent review of Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) operations related to the wildfire event that preceded and ultimately led to the Mountain Fire. The review is being led by CAL FIRE Southern Region Chief Mike van Loben Sels and CAL FIRE San Diego Unit and County Fire Chief Tony Mecham — both seasoned fire service leaders with extensive incident management experience at the state and national levels. This review underscores VCFD's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in wildfire response operations.

Regional Interagency Training and Preparedness

Over the past month, VCFD firefighters have strengthened regional preparedness through joint training exercises with Ventura City Fire, Oxnard City Fire, and Los Angeles County Fire Department. Utilizing VCFD's new state-of-the-art training facility, crews conducted simulated structure fire scenarios that included mayday operations and firefighter rescue. These multi-agency drills enhance interoperability, reinforce mutual trust, and ensure seamless operational coordination during complex emergencies across jurisdictional boundaries.

Expansion of Fire Suppression Resources – Truck Company Deployment

In May, VCFD will place a new Truck Company into service in the Santa Clara River Valley, initially assigned to Fire Station 27 and later relocating to Fire Station 29 upon its opening later this year. This deployment is guided by a comprehensive Standards of Cover study conducted in partnership with Citigate, which evaluated system performance and identified opportunities to improve response times and service delivery. The addition of this truck company strengthens emergency response capacity in a growing service area and reflects data-driven resource planning.

Sincerely,

Andy VanSciver
Firefighter/Public Information Officer