



November 14, 2023

Mr. Vince Rossini, Chairman and Honorable Board Members
Orange County Fire Authority
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

Subject: Letter of Support for Rancho Mission Viejo as the Location for the Wildfire Resource Center

Dear Director Rossini,

I am writing on behalf of the South Orange County Economic Coalition (Coalition) Board of Directors to express **our strong support for the selection of Rancho Mission Viejo (RMV) as the location for the Wildfire Resource Center**. As the leading voice of business in South Orange County, our Coalition is committed to advocating for a robust local economy and addressing critical issues that impact our community.

Our endorsement is based on several important factors, **and align with the OCFA staff's September 2023 recommendation**.

1. **Ideal Location:** Rancho Mission Viejo's proximity to wildland conservation areas, the Ortega Highway and Los Patrones Parkway reveal it to be the ideal location for the Wildfire Resource Center. This center will serve the entire South Orange County region immediately *servicing both San Clemente, and the cities to the north, Mission Viejo, Lake Forest and Rancho Santa Margarita*.
2. **Largest Master Planned Community:** RMV stands as the single largest remaining master planned community in Orange County and is currently planning for approximately 10,000 more homes over the next 15 years.
3. **Proven Track Record:** With a 50-year track record, Rancho Mission Viejo has consistently demonstrated its partnership to OCFA in planning, building and delivering fire stations for the betterment of our community.

In light of these considerations, we strongly recommend that the OCFA Board selects Rancho Mission Viejo as the location for the Wildfire Resource Center. We believe that this project will not only benefit the safety and well-being of our community but also contribute to the continued economic growth and prosperity of South Orange County. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that your decision will reflect the best interests of our community and its future.

Sincerely,

Victoria Hernandez Executive Director, South Orange County Economic Coalition