

Pine Crest - Riv. Co. Play. Rd. Neighborhood Watch
Idyllwild, CA 92549

June 26, 2017

Re: Fire and Public Safety Concerns at Idyllwild Park

Park Headquarters
Attn: Scott Bangle, General Manager
4600 Crestmore Road
Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

Dear Mr. Bangle:

Members of the Pine Crest-Riverside County Playground Road Neighborhood Watch group met on Sunday, June 11, 2017 to discuss recent incidents and common concerns that pertain to our neighborhood. The purpose of this letter is to request prompt action to increase public safety and mitigate fire danger in our immediate area.

Many have observed an **increase in trespassing** into Idyllwild County Park. We have noticed the same individuals repeatedly entering and leaving the park, presumably to utilize the restroom and showers. When the park kiosk is staffed, we have been told that park personnel monitor these individuals and encourage them not to loiter. Several of these trespassers have pitched tents and have created makeshift shelters off the trail leading to the Idyllwild Nature Center, as well as other areas within park boundaries. As park personnel are made aware of illegal encampments, they have responded by issuing warnings to vacate within 24 to 48 hours. Shouldn't trespassers vacate immediately?

Trespassers in Idyllwild Park particularly alarm us as neighbors for several reasons:

- *First, evidence of fire hazards such as cook stoves, propane bottles, and candles have been observed in these sites. Fire is our primary concern.*
- *Second, public safety is compromised when repeat offenders are not removed immediately by law enforcement. One such offender appears to be named Kris as evidenced by several notes left in the park and in our neighborhood. Kris is known by members of this community to be an intravenous drug user with a criminal record.*
- *Third, littering and disposal of human waste at illegal encampments is a threat to both environmental health and public safety.*

Our neighborhood watch group offers these recommendations to enhance the safety of park visitors and campers, as well as the property and personal safety for those living nearby.

- *Increase funding and staffing for Idyllwild County Park, especially during fire season.*
- *Enforce compliance with existing regulations regarding trespass and littering.*
- *Ensure that Idyllwild Park enforces fire bans imposed by Cal-Fire.*
- *Increase funding and staffing for law enforcement in and around Idyllwild to ensure prompt response in the event of criminal activity and/or in the event of an emergency.*

Attached, please find a list of concerned members of our Neighborhood Watch group. We have also copied this letter to key representatives and constituents.

Again, the purpose of this letter is to request prompt action to increase public safety and mitigate fire danger in our immediate area. We thank you in advance for your attention to our concerns, observations, and suggestions.

Sincerely,

The Pine Crest-Riverside County Playground Road Neighborhood Watch Group

(names of meeting attendees below)

Name	Street in Idyllwild, CA	Signature
(Name omitted in this version)	Riverside County Playground Rd	
(Name omitted in this version)	Riverside County Playground Rd	
(Name omitted in this version)	Riverside County Playground Rd	
(Name omitted in this version)	Riverside County Playground Rd	
(Name omitted in this version)	Riverside County Playground Rd	
(Name omitted in this version)	Riverside County Playground Rd	
(Name omitted in this version)	Pine Crest	
(Name omitted in this version)	Pine Crest	
(Name omitted in this version)	Pine Crest	

cc:

<p>County Supervisor, Chuck Washington c/o Brian Tisdale, Legislative Assistant 749 N. State St. Hemet, CA 92549</p>	<p>Idyllwild Fire Protection District Attn: Chief Patrick Reitz P.O. Box 656 54160 Maranatha drive Idyllwild, CA 92649</p>
<p>Riv. Co. Sheriff Captain, Leonard Purvis 43950 Acacia Ave. Suite B Hemet, CA 92544</p>	<p>Unit Headquarters Attn: Chief Bill Wieser 210 W San Jacinto Perris, CA 92570</p>
<p>Mt. San Jacinto State Park Superintendent Mark Hudgens PO Box 308 Idyllwild, CA 92549</p>	<p>Tahquitz Peak Fire Lookout Team Leader Joe Bressi So. Calif. Mountains Foundation 602 S. Tippecanoe Ave. San Bernardino, CA 92408</p>

The following entities are located next to Idyllwild Park and have read and support our requests:

Name	Title / Organization	Signature
(Name omitted in this version)	Manager, Idyllwild Pines Camp	
(Name omitted in this version)	Manager, Buckhorn Camp	
(Name omitted in this version)	Manager, Royal Pines Mobile Home Park	