



R. Rex Parris Mayor  
Marvin E. Crist Vice Mayor  
Ronald D. Smith Council Member  
Ken Mann Council Member  
Sandra Johnson Council Member  
Mark V. Bozigian City Manager

June 4, 2013

Mayor James C. Ledford and Palmdale City Council Members  
38300 Sierra Highway  
Palmdale, California 93550

Dear Mayor Ledford and Council Members,

As in years past, you will have the opportunity to consider whether or not "Safe and Sane" fireworks should be permitted to be sold within Palmdale's City limits at tomorrow evening's Palmdale City Council meeting. On behalf of the City of Lancaster and in the interest of all citizens of the Antelope Valley, I am writing to implore you to consider putting fireworks sales on hiatus for the 2013 4<sup>th</sup> of July season.

With a record lack of rain in the past year, extreme weather conditions facing the Antelope Valley have led to circumstances that are ripe for disastrous fires affecting thousands of local residents. This fact is currently being demonstrated by the Powerhouse Fire, which has burned more than 32,000 acres, caused the emergency evacuation of thousands of people, and destroyed several homes. At 60% containment, the fire has required the assistance of over 2,100 firefighters from throughout the state, with costs of fighting the fire – not including damage done – already at over \$3 million.

While we understand that fireworks provide a much-needed revenue source for both the City of Palmdale and local nonprofit organizations in these times of economic difficulty, this revenue is simply not worth the immense risk. We understand and appreciate that Palmdale engages in increased enforcement efforts to mitigate this risk; however, it would take just one accidental or irresponsible use of these products to spark another significant fire incident. To protect the best interests of both of our cities as well as the surrounding communities, this is a risk we simply cannot afford to take.

We greatly appreciate your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rex Parris", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

R. Rex Parris, Mayor  
City of Lancaster

c: Lancaster City Council Members  
Mark V. Bozigian, Lancaster City Manager