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THREE EAST COUNTY CITIES SIGN A JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE COOPERATIVE FIRE SERVICES

La Mesa... The cities of El Cajon, La Mesa, and Lemon Grove will provide cooperative fire services through a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) which creates a shared management team to coordinate fire and emergency medical services, firefighter training, fire prevention, emergency planning, and community preparedness. This will result in more efficient use of resources, better delivery of service to the public, and cost savings of over \$500,000 annually. The JPA was approved by all three city councils and signed on October 15, 2009.



The JPA will provide the best opportunity for the three cities to pool resources and was approved for several reasons. First, the agreement is simple and quick to implement. Second, the agreement provides a high degree of local control. Third, the agreement allows the cities to share senior management positions, resulting in efficiencies and allowances for specialization of senior staff. Fourth, the joint powers agreement establishes a foundation for the cities to evolve the cooperative relationship into that of a joint agency.



These three cities have a long history of cooperative efforts in training and dispatch facilities. This shared management approach will further improve service and flexibility by coordinating resources and enhancing training through standardized policies, procedures, and practices.

This is a momentous endeavor and is being watched closely by our communities and other surrounding agencies. La Mesa residents should be proud of their Council and staff on leading the way with its partners on the regionalization of fire and EMS services.

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