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Please embargo until December 4, 2007

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MEDIA INVITATION

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION WORKING GROUP TO HOLD SUMMIT DECEMBER 4TH AT PALA CASINO AND RESORT IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The Rural Fire Protection Working Group of the Legislative Rural Caucus is convening a summit on rural fire protection issues on **Tuesday December 4th, 2007**. The summit is scheduled from 8:30am to 5:30pm and is designed to hear comments from California's fire and emergency leaders on the state of fire prevention, response and recovery in California, and how the Legislature might improve our state's fire and emergency services.

The location is the Pala Casino Spa & Resort located at 11154 Highway 76, Pala CA 92059 (located east of I-15 in northern San Diego County).

Speakers and panelists include Cal-Fire Director Ruben Grijalva, OES Chief of Fire & Rescue Division Kim Zagaris, Chief Michael Warren, Chairman Blue Ribbon Task Force, local and tribal fire chiefs, FireSafe Council members, volunteer firefighter organizations, and other leaders in rural fire protection.

Lunch will include check presentations by State Farm Insurance in the amounts of \$150,000 and \$100,000 to CAL FIRE and California Fire Safe Councils respectively.

Legislators currently scheduled to attend include Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries, Chair of the Rural Fire Protection Working Group, Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, and Assemblymembers Cathleen Galgiani, John Benoit, Paul Cook, and Joel Anderson. Staff from the offices of Congresswoman Mary Bono and Congressman Daryl Issa, as well as other legislative offices will also be in attendance.

The Mission of the Rural Fire Protection Working Group is to analyze and seek to address the critical needs of rural fire services. The Working Group will work with rural stakeholders to employ administrative, communicative and legislative strategies to accomplish the following objectives:

- Evaluate and enhance current fire prevention and protection programs and resources
- Evaluate and promote access to adequate training facilities and programs,
- Identify funding opportunities for equipment, staffing and prevention programs,
- Evaluate and promote volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention,
- Promote integrated rural fire protection services and emergency communications

For more information on the summit, including a draft agenda, please contact the office of the Rural Fire Protection Working Group Chairman, Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries, at 951-894-1232.

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Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries represents Western Riverside County and Northeastern San Diego County, including the communities of Riverside, Jurupa, Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, Temecula, Fallbrook, Bonsall, Valley Center, and Julian.