

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** During the Los Angeles City Council meeting yesterday, we heard that the LAFD feels ready to fight wildfires effectively, and EMD outlined their plans to house brush fire evacuees in the face of COVID-19. What is left to discover is how the public will react and adapt to the possibility of facing two stressful events simultaneously. A resident's evacuation preparedness perception, based on past experiences, may turn out to be counterproductive to the stated goals of LAFD and EMD and make their jobs much more difficult this time around. History shows that compliance with evacuation orders are spotty at best. Coupled with confusion about where to go might make many want to stay put. While others may go, some might want to avoid public shelters because of their use serving homeless occupancy needs. Others might find the local hotels restricted and even find that friends or family availability may not be practical due to social distancing. Now that the City Council has heard from the two agencies named in your motion, it is time to find out what the community members understand about the circumstances they face and what they intend to do when asked to evacuate. Knowing their expectations will help City leaders draft an educational campaign that will be in everyone's best interest. It is time to put the community at the center of the question that prompted your wise action. I hope you will continue the public conversation and press for more comprehensive information from these two city agencies.  
Respectfully, Jim Dryden Tujunga