



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
November 2, 2003

Contact: Linda Miller (858) 505-6152
Cell: (619) 665-3629

RAMONA LOCAL ASSISTANCE CENTER OPENS FOR FIRESTORM VICTIMS *Families Affected by Wildfires Receive Assistance At One-Stop Center*

The County of San Diego opened a Local Assistance Center (LAC) in Ramona today, to offer federal, state and local assistance to firestorm victims.

People were waiting as the doors opened at 8:00 a.m. at the LAC, located in the old post office building, 325 Sixth Street.

"It's gratifying to see these people who have suffered so much from the effects of the firestorm getting the help they need," said County Supervisor Diane Jacob, who spent hours at the LACs in both Ramona and Alpine this weekend, speaking with individuals who came to the center.

Agencies offering assistance included County building officials, County Health and Human Services Agency, mental health professionals, the American Red Cross, California Office of Emergency Services, Small Business Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Property Tax Reduction, utilities and various volunteer services.

The Alpine LAC opened yesterday morning, at 1327 Tavern Road, Ste. 30, serving nearly 300 people by day's end. The Valley Center LAC will open at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 28565 Cole Grade Road. All LACs keep the same hours: Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and all offer the same services.

###