

# RIDGECREST AREA ASSOCIATION of REALTORS®, INC.

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April 12, 2024

East Kern Health Care District  
Karen Macedonio, President  
8051 Bay Ave.  
California City, CA 93505

Dear Mrs. Macedonio,

I write, as President of the Ridgecrest Area Association of Realtors in full support of the annexation of the East Kern Health Care District to include the Ridgecrest Community. We believe this will provide greater access to healthcare for residents living in the Indian Wells Valley and beyond. This also lays important groundwork to facilitate greater financial stability for Ridgecrest Regional Hospital.

As a member of the California Association of Realtors, RAAR has long been involved in endeavors that shape, promote and protect an environment that allow residents and property owners to thrive. A thriving hospital is key not only for the promotion of health and wellness, but also for its contributions to employment opportunities and quality of life in our community.

With the nearest full-service hospital about 100 miles away, RRH provides our rural population with access to life-saving care in a timely and affordable manner. Having a quality hospital in our community is also a tremendous asset for recruitment and retention at China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station and our other major employers.

But rural hospitals are in trouble. For RRH, those challenges took root with the financial strain resulting from earthquake recovery investments in 2019. Just eight months after two historic earthquakes, the pandemic era brought with it three years of inadequate staffing, out dated reimbursement models, and skyrocketing inflation and operational costs. While many hospitals across the country and state faced similar challenges, few had the geographical remoteness that limited support and relief from nearby institutions. And none had to drag earthquake liabilities with them into the pandemic.

The preservation of services at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital and becoming part of the East Kern Health Care District are vital to the stability and longevity of RRH. The prospect of a community without a hospital will surely cost us in lives and health. But it will also have significant impacts on every other employer, agency and public service in our valley.

As I stated in my opening the Ridgecrest Area Association of Realtors and its members are in full support of the annexation of the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital into the East Kern Health Care District.

Thank you for all of your effort and hard work on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

SARA RIZZARDINI

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Sara Rizzardini, Association President  
Ridgecrest Area Association of Realtors