

Tamara Parent

From: c Ci <cci645052@gmail.com>
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To: SMCD Info
Subject: Please read for public comment Nov 2025

Letter of Dissent – Fireworks in San Miguel

To the Board of Directors,
San Miguel Community Services District

I am writing to formally express my **dissent** regarding “Discussion on the continued sale and use of ‘Safe and Sane’ Fireworks within District boundaries.”

Reasons for My Dissent

1. Fire danger in San Miguel is real and escalating

San Miguel is a high-risk fire zone, and recent events show the danger clearly:

- **A horse died last year** after panicking from fireworks.
- **A brush fire nearly caused an evacuation.**
- **We have Historic buildings that are at risk of burning down like Templeton.**
- **Illegal fireworks were launched all across town**, including **right next to the fireworks stand** this endangers the Firefighters in the booth.
- San Miguel is the only place in the entire county that continues to sell fireworks even though the County says it's unsafe. Does this effect our insurance rates?
These incidents have already happened here—they are not theoretical risks.

2. Enforcement has weakened despite increased illegal activity

For years, the Fire Chief confiscated illegal fireworks. Recently, this enforcement has **stopped**, even as illegal fireworks have increased. Reduced enforcement during rising fire danger puts the entire community at risk.

3. Emergency services were overwhelmed

A Sheriff's deputy publicly stated in July that:

Fireworks activity in San Miguel was overwhelming, she spent **her entire night** stuck in town on fireworks-related calls and a fire. She stated she could not patrol the rest of her assigned region.

Fireworks in San Miguel pulled resources from the rest of the county!

4. Revoked or non-compliant nonprofits have been permitted to sell

In past years, fireworks stands have been operated under nonprofits that IRS records showed were **revoked or not in compliance**.
This:

- **exposes donors to potential misrepresentation and fraud,**
- **creates uncertainty about where funds go,**
- **and places the District in a position of appearing to authorize fundraising that may not be lawful.**

5. Firefighters selling fireworks creates a conflict

Firefighters are tasked with **preventing fires**, yet they are also **selling ignition sources** that contribute to fire calls, injuries, and emergency overload. No other high-fire-risk California community allows this.

The Fire Chief approves the applications for Fireworks Sales, meaning he **approved his own REVOKED NONCOMPLIANT** "nonprofit"

6. Fireworks cause predictable harm

Fireworks traumatize pets and livestock, affect veterans with PTSD and sensory-sensitive children, and disrupt elderly residents. The risk of fire is very high! You encourage people from other areas to become Fireworks Tourists. Then snowballing into other communities that have banned them. These consequences repeat every year.

Request

I respectfully ask the Board to:

- **Reject** continued fireworks sales,
- **Reinstate** enforcement of illegal fireworks,
- **Verify** nonprofit compliance before approvals,
- **Pursue** safer celebration alternatives.

San Miguel has already experienced fires, trauma, diverted emergency resources, and even the death of an animal due to fireworks. With illegal launches next to the stand and a history of revoked nonprofits selling fireworks, continuing this practice is not responsible. What are the benefits to the community of San Miguel other than enriching a nonprofit?

My dissent is based on one principle:

San Miguel deserves protection—not preventable danger.

Thank you for your time and attention.

San Miguel Resident

Shaunna P.

11/18/25