

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am speaking to express my concerns in the potential appointment of Karl Baker to serve as a trustee to the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District ("District") representing the City of Desert Hot Springs. Karl Baker previously served as a trustee to the District from Desert Hot Springs. During that time, in March 2002, a District employee brought forward a sexual harassment complaint against Mr. Baker. As required by law and by the District's policies against sexual harassment, the harassment complaint was investigated and handled internally in an appropriate manner.

At the time of the sexual harassment investigation in 2002, trustee Baker threatened to retaliate against various District employees, including myself as District Manager. At that time, the Districts' Board of Trustees, reviewed the retaliation threats and found them to be serious and likely to expose the District, and potentially the City of Desert Hot Springs, to liability. Mr. Baker was subsequent replaced as a District trustee by the City of Desert Hot Springs.

A week ago this past Monday, on June 26, 2006, I attended the annual dinner meeting of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments. Mr. Baker also attended and told me that he was to be reappointed by the City of Desert Hot Springs as a trustee to the District. He then told me that his first goal was to see that I am fired for the prior investigation and his replacement on the Board. If Mr. Baker is reappointed by the City of Desert Hot Springs, his most recent threat of retaliation could lead to many problems for both the District and the City.