

The VOAD groups in Southern California are working hard to help the people and communities affected by the most recent Southern California fires. This was displayed at the VOAD, non-profit, faith-based and governmental meeting held on October 30th at the Kroc Center in San Diego. At this meeting, over 200 people who represented many different organizations and agencies came together to hear speakers from response/recovery organizations, and local, state and federal government agencies who were providing aid to the victims of the Southern California fires. This brought together service providers, which helped reduce duplication of services. It also helped assure that everyone who came to an agency asking for help was either helped or directed to an agency that offered the assistance they needed.

Notes from this meeting are forthcoming.

Don Read, San Diego / Imperial County (SD/I) VOAD and Southern California VOAD President, is leading the charge for the recovery efforts, "I would like to thank all of the VOAD membership. Because of your collaborative efforts with VOAD organizations, and local, State and the Federal Government throughout the year, we were able to respond to local and regional needs more quickly and with more precision than in years past. Also, the gap in time between when we stopped talking and started moving was shorter than in previous disaster events. Our collaborating efforts speak louder than words and shows in the communities we serve".

SD/I VOAD has scheduled two conference calls to begin the process of establishing organizational links for Long Term Recovery. If your organization is planning to commit for Long Term recovery (3 yrs or more), please email Don Read at [don\\_read@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:don_read@usw.salvationarmy.org), before the first call. "Each organization has limited resources, so it is important that all data be recorded in the Coordinated Assistance Network (CAN). Wildfire survivors are depending on us to commit and trust one another to help them in their time of need," Don Read, Southern California President.

Reminders:

SD/I conference calls: November 6th at 12 noon and November 13th at 12 noon for VOAD organizations working in support of the Southern California fires.

SD/I VOAD meeting on November 20th at 10 AM at the Kroc Center.