



RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

In cooperation with the
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

2300 Market Street, 1st FL Suite 150 • Riverside, California 92501 • (951) 955-4777 • Fax (909) 955-4886

John R. Hawkins
Fire Chief

Proudly serving the
unincorporated
areas of Riverside
County and the
Cities of:

- Banning
- ◆
- Beaumont
- ◆
- Calimesa
- ◆
- Canyon Lake
- ◆
- Coachella
- ◆
- Desert Hot Springs
- ◆
- Indian Wells
- ◆
- Indio
- ◆
- Lake Elsinore
- ◆
- La Quinta
- ◆
- Moreno Valley
- ◆
- Palm Desert
- ◆
- Perris
- ◆
- Rancho Mirage
- ◆
- San Jacinto
- ◆
- Temecula

- Board of Supervisors
- Bob Buster,
District 1
- John Tavaglione,
District 2
- Jeff Stone,
District 3
- Roy Wilson,
District 4
- Marion Ashley,
District 5

March 5, 2009

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
1001 I street, 14th Floor
Camilla Williams
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Notice of preparation for the Eagle Mountain Pump Storage Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, SCH # 2009011010

With respect to the referenced project (EIR), the Riverside County Fire Department has the following comments:

The proposed project will have a cumulative adverse impact on the Fire Department's ability to provide an acceptable level of service. These impacts include an increased number of emergency and public service calls due to the increased presence of traffic, structures and population. The proponents/developers shall participate in the Development Impact Fee Program as adopted by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to mitigate a portion of these impacts. This will provide funding for capital improvements such as land, equipment purchases and fire station construction. The Fire Department reserves the right to negotiate developer agreements associated with the development of land and/or construction of fire facilities to meet service demands through the regional integrated fire protection response system.

Mitigation measures, as defined by the County of Riverside, should be considered in order to help reduce these impacts to a level below significance. Examples of mitigation measures might include:

- Developer participation in land acquisition and fire facility construction;
- Equipment upgrade and/or purchase;
- Participation in a fire mitigation fee program which would allow one-time capitol improvements such as land and equipment purchases, and construction development.
- Participation in the cost of adding additional personnel.

Costs necessary to maintain the increased level of service may be at least partially offset by taxes acquired by the new construction; however additional funding sources may have to be identified to cover any shortfalls

The 3 nearest Fire Stations that would respond to an incident are:

RCO Station # 49, Lake Tamarisk, 4380 lake Tamarisk, Desert Center, CA

RCO Station # 45, Blythe Air Base, 17280 West Hobson Way, Blythe, CA

RCO Station # 43, Blythe, 140 West Barnard Street, Blythe, CA

All the above mentioned RCO Fire Stations are staffed full-time, 24 hours/7 days a week, with a minimum 3 person crew, including Paramedics, operating "Type-1" structural fire fighting apparatus.

From the above listed fire stations, the first unit should arrive within 21 minutes after dispatch, the second within 58 minutes and the third within 66 minutes. These times are approximate and do not meet the response protection goals.

As with any additional construction within a response area, a "cumulative" increase in requests for service will add to the Fire Department's ability to provide adequate service.

In the interest of Public Safety, the project shall provide an Alternate or Secondary Access(s) as stated in the Transportation Department Conditions. Said Alternate or Secondary Access(s) shall have concurrence and approval of both the Transportation and the Fire Department, and shall be maintained through out any phasing. The Fire Department will need to review any proposed access/road circulation plan. Secondary access was not indicated in the Notice of Preparation

The California Fire Code outlines fire protection standards for the safety, health, and welfare of the public. These standards will be enforced by the Fire Chief.

If you have additional questions feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jason Neuman

Jason Neuman, Captain

Strategic Planning Division

Riverside County Fire Department

(951) 940-6394