



RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
IN COOPERATION WITH
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

John R. Hawkins ~ Fire Chief
210 West San Jacinto Avenue ~ Perris, CA 92570
(951) 940-6900 ~ www.rvcfire.org

PROUDLY SERVING THE
UNINCORPORATED AREAS
OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY
AND THE CITIES OF:

- BANNING
- BEAUMONT
- CALIMESA
- CANYON LAKE
- COACHELLA
- DESERT HOT SPRINGS
- EASTVALE
- INDIAN WELLS
- INDIO
- JURUPA VALLEY
- LAKE ELSINORE
- LA QUINTA
- MENIFEE
- MORENO VALLEY
- NORCO
- PALM DESERT
- PERRIS
- RANCHO MIRAGE
- RUBIDOUX CSD
- SAN JACINTO
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March 14, 2012

California Energy Commission
Energy Facilities Siting Office
ATTN: James Adams, Planner II
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814-5112

DOCKET

11-AFC-4

DATE MAR 14 2012

RECD. MAR 28 2012

RE: Potential Fire District Emergency Medical Response Needs for the Proposed Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (RMSEGF) Project (11-AFC-4)

Dear Mr. Adams,

The following information includes responses to your questions identified in your letter dated January 13, 2012.

1. *What fire station would be the first responder to a medical emergency at the project site?*

The closest Riverside County Fire Station that would respond to an incident at the proposed Rio Mesa Plant is located in the unincorporated area of Ripley, California.

Riverside County Fire Station #44 (Ripley), 13987 Main Street, Ripley, CA 92225

The above referenced station is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with a 3 person crew, providing paramedic service. The staffing consists of (1) Fire Captain, (1) Fire Apparatus Engineer and (1) Firefighter II. One of the three crew members is a certified paramedic.

2. *Does the Riverside County Fire Department have any mutual aid agreements with agencies in Arizona for emergency medical assistance? If so, please list the agencies with which Riverside County Fire Department has emergency medical response included as part of the agreement.*

The Riverside County Fire Department has mutual aid agreements with the following fire agencies in the State of Arizona.

Buckskin FD- Parker Arizona Area- Providing Basic Life Support service (BLS)

Parker Fire Department providing (BLS)
Quartzsite Fire Department Providing Advanced Life Support (ALS)
Ehrenberg Fire Department providing (BLS)
Wenden Fire Department providing (BLS)
Salome Fire Department providing (BLS)
Bouse Volunteer Fire Department providing (BLS)
CRIT(Colorado River Indian Tribe) Fire Department Parker Area providing (BLS)

3. What is the estimated emergency response time between the project site and John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital? Is this hospital the closest facility to the project site with an emergency room?

The estimated response time from the proposed project to John F Kennedy Memorial Hospital is approximately 1 hour, 50 minutes. The closest hospital to the project area is:

Palo Verde Hospital
250 North 1st Street
Blythe, CA 92225

Located approximately 19 miles from the proposed site

4. *According to the Application for Certification (AFC) the closest hospital with a trauma center is the Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, 130 miles west of the project site with a helicopter transport time (round trip) of 1 hour, 20 minutes. Given the severity of trauma injuries, would this response time be considered reasonable?*

In the event of a serious emergency medical incident an aero medical ambulance would be requested to respond to the scene. The closest resource would respond from Thermal, California. The estimated response time from the Thermal Airport to the proposed project is approximately 45 minutes and the response time from the project site to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs is approximately 50 minutes. The goal of EMS/trauma is to have the patient in the operating room within one hour of the incident. The estimated air ambulance response time identified in the AFC exceeds the one hour objective.

5. *Existing Emergency Medical Response Resources and Services in the Project Area*

Names and addresses of the facilities (e.g., fire stations, ambulance dispatch facility) serving the project area, and distance of closest dispatch facility to the project site:

Riverside County Fire Station #44 (Ripley)
13987 Main Street
Ripley, CA 92225

Paramedic Assessment Engine

Located approximately 9 miles

Riverside County Fire Department
Emergency Command Center is located:
210 West San Jacinto Av.
Perris, CA 92570

Located approximately 200 miles

Blythe Ambulance (AMR)
129 South 1st Street
Blythe, CA 92225

Blythe Ambulance Medic 1
Blythe Ambulance Medic 2
Blythe Ambulance Medic 3

Located approximately 18 miles

River Medical American Medical Response (AMR) Dispatch
415 El Camino Way
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Located approximately 115 miles

6. *Adopted or desired emergency medical response service standard (e.g., 5 minute minimum emergency response time, 1 emergency response unit per 1,000 employees):*

Based on the Riverside County Fire Department's Master Plan, the proposed project will be located in an outlying area. The land use objective specifies that a fire station is to be located within 8 miles of a development. The proposed project is located approximately 9 miles from Ripley Fire Station 44.

7. *Existing staffing levels able to respond to emergency medical incidents for facilities serving the project area (including permanent and volunteer staff , totals and per shift):*

Resources from the Riverside County Fire Department will respond with paramedic assessment engines from the following stations.

Riverside County Fire Station #44 (Ripley)
13987 Main Street
Ripley, CA 92225

Riverside County Fire Station # 43 (Blythe)
140 West Barnard Street
Blythe, CA. 92225

Riverside County Fire Station # 45 (Blythe Air Base)
17280 W. Hobson Way
Blythe, CA 92225

The above referenced Riverside County Fire Department stations are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with a 3 person crew, providing paramedic service. The engine staffing consists of (1) Fire Captain, (1) Fire Apparatus Engineer and (1) Firefighter II. One of the three crew members is a certified paramedic.

American Medical Response (AMR) Blythe Ambulance response to the proposed project area providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport:

Blythe Ambulance (AMR) Medic 1	(1) Paramedic and (1) EMT (ALS) Transport Service
Blythe Ambulance(AMR) Medic 2	(1) Paramedic and (1) EMT (ALS) Transport Service
Blythe Ambulance (AMR) Medic 3	(1) Paramedic and (1) EMT Staffed at peak

8. *Estimated emergency medical response times to the project site:*

Riverside County Fire Station #44 (Ripley) Paramedic Assessment Engine (PAE) 14-16 minutes

Riverside County Fire Station # 43 (Blythe) (PAE) 27-29 minutes

Riverside County Fire Station # 45 (Blythe Air Base) (PAE) 28-30 minutes

Blythe Ambulance Medic 1 Advanced Life Support (ALS) 26-28 minutes

These times are approximate based on conditions and currently **do not** meet the Outlying Land Use protection goals.

9. *Current projected needs (e.g., facilities and staff) to maintain or meet existing emergency medical response service levels:*

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. The proposed project identifies approximately 5,570 acres of land, the construction of heliostats, and three receiving towers with an overall height of 750 feet. The proposed commercial/industrial development at build out will have a significant impact on the fire department’s ability to provide an adequate level of service.

These impacts include an increased number of emergency and public service calls due to the increased presence of structures, employees, traffic, heavy construction equipment and service vehicles.

The onsite conditions create a high risk potential for a technical rescue, and EMS related incidents which will require specialized equipment and trained staff to respond. Extended response times from specialized equipment can be anticipated to the project area.

Due to the remote location and climate conditions, a response by the fire department would require multiple units to respond. In the event of a medical emergency or technical rescue incident, the fire department will be required to cover or back fill stations left uncovered in order to meet service demands and support the region. If an incident were to occur, fire units would be dispatched from Blythe, Indio and the lower Coachella Valley as part of the regional integrated fire protection response system.

The Riverside County Fire Department will require the applicant to participate in the Development Impact Fee (DIF) Program/Solar Policy B-29 as adopted by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to mitigate the impacts. This will provide funding for capital improvements such as land, equipment purchases and fire station construction. In addition, the fire department is requesting the applicant to provide a training prop at two of the regional training centers to prepare emergency responders for onsite EMS and technical rescue incidents that may occur during the construction and operation phases of the project. Additional personnel will also be required to staff required command and rescue specialist functions during an emergency incident.

New fire facilities will be needed in order to accommodate additional staffing of fire rescue apparatus. The specialized equipment will require proper storage and maintenance to ensure optimal performance in the event of an emergency.

10. Exchange of general emergency medical response responsibilities (e.g., formal and/or informal agreements with local municipalities or private companies for provision of services) in the project area:

The Riverside County does not have any informal agreements with local municipalities or private companies. The proposed project is located within the County of Riverside. The Riverside County Fire Department is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and resources will be dispatched by the Emergency Command Center of the Riverside County Fire Department.

11. Current inventory of specialized equipment or services (e.g., life flight services):

Engine 44: Paramedic Assessment Engine (PAE) a "Type-1" structural firefighting apparatus

Engine 43: Paramedic Assessment Engine (PAE) a "Type-1" structural firefighting apparatus

Engine 45: Paramedic Assessment Engine (PAE) a "Type-1" structural firefighting apparatus

Blythe Ambulance (AMR) Medic 1 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance

Blythe Ambulance (AMR) Medic 2 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance

Blythe Ambulance (AMR) Medic 3 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance

Mercy Air 18

Aero Medical Transport Helicopter

Reach Air Medical Services

Aero Medical Transport Helicopter

12. Is there a process or formula used by your department to determine the need for additional medical response services to serve a new large-scale power plant?

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. Based on the adopted Riverside County Fire Protection Master Plan, one new fire station and/or engine company is recommended for every 2,000 new dwelling units and/or 3.5 million square feet of commercial/industrial occupancy. Given the project’s proposed development plan, additional resources and staffing may be needed to meet anticipated service demands. This is based on evaluation of response criteria, response capability, facility spacing, development planning, traffic impact, circulation and target hazards to meet service demands through the regional integrated fire protection response system. The Outlying Land Use Category of the Fire Protection Master Plan specifies that a full alarm assignment be operating on scene of an emergency incident within twenty minutes and the fire station to be located within 8 miles. The primary station serving this area would not be within the 8 mile objective and the first alarm assignment exceeds the twenty minute response threshold.

13. Could the project trigger a need for additional emergency medical response services? During project construction & During project operation:

Yes. The onsite conditions create a high risk potential for a technical rescue/EMS incident during the construction and operational phases which would require specialized equipment and trained staff to respond. The fire department will pre-plan facilities based on the worst case scenario and establish operational procedures to mitigate emergency incidents. The analysis will include life safety threats, damage potential, assets at risk and incident complexity etc.

14. Could increase project-related traffic affect circulation and access on roads near the project site to the extent that an impact to emergency response times might occur? During project construction: During project operation:

Yes. Although the traffic analysis identifies a minimal impact to the road network during peak and off peak hours, the fire department anticipates heavy congestion will occur, affecting our response times within the community of Ripley. Traffic congestion will create a cumulative

impact from heavy equipment vehicles and construction workers traveling along State Route Highway 78. This increase in vehicle travel along the arterial roadway will require continued management and maintenance. During the construction phase, numerous vehicle trips from heavy equipment will damage the road which may increase the potential of causing damage to the suspension systems of emergency fire, EMS and law enforcement resources. The applicant shall provide and maintain access roads throughout the construction and operation phase for emergency vehicles.

15. *Do emergency medical response personnel review development site plans for projects to assess potential medical emergency issues (e.g., safety plans, emergency response plans)? Please explain.*

No. However, the fire department's Planning and Engineering Office will review site plans to ensure code compliance. In the interest of Public Safety, the project shall provide an alternate or secondary access to the project site. Alternate or secondary access points shall have concurrence and approval of both the Transportation and Fire Departments, and shall be maintained throughout any phasing.

16. *Please explain any other emergency medical response concerns that have not been addressed by this needs assessment form.*

All onsite EMS functions and equipment complements shall be approved by the Riverside Emergency Medical Service Agency (REMS).

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (951) 571-8193 or e-mail at jason.neumann@fire.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Jason Neuman

Fire Captain
Strategic Planning Bureau