



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

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P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN
August 7, 2006

Eric Knight, Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Knight:

TECHNICAL REPORT, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION – WALNUT CREEK ENERGY PARK (INDUSTRY) FFER 200600049

The Technical Report has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, and Forestry Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. The following are their comments:

PLANNING DIVISION/FIRE PROTECTION & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AVAILABILITY:

We have a few comments regarding the discussion of local fire protection service in Section 8.10.1.7.2. Identifying the three (3) fire stations in the City of Industry implies, incorrectly, that only fire stations located within the same city would respond to an incident in the project. All County Fire Department emergency response units are dispatched as needed to an incident anywhere in our service territory, regardless of city boundaries. Thus, the 3rd closest fire station is not Station 87 in Industry, some five (5) miles away, but Station 26, located at 15336 Elliot Avenue in the City of La Puente, 2.9 miles from the site. The paragraph, "The City of Industry and the County Fire Department maintain a mutual aid pact with surrounding communities for police, fire, and ambulance service. Response time for emergency calls is approximately two (2) minutes" is incorrect. The City of Industry does not provide emergency services and thus cannot enter into aid agreements with other providers. The County Fire Department also serves the surrounding communities; as indicated above, there is no need for aid agreements. The last statement quoted above is unclear as to which responder. This statement is attributed to oral communication with a station captain. Oral comments are not based on the Department's computerized data base of thousands of actual response times and should not be used to substantiate any findings in the environmental review process. The Fire Department officially responds to environmental assessments only in writing. The estimated response time from Station 118 to the center of the project is slightly over three (3) minutes.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| AGOURA HILLS | BRADBURY | CUDAHY | HAWTHORNE | LA MIRADA | MALIBU | POMONA | SIGNAL HILL |
| ARTESIA | CALABASAS | DIAMOND BAR | HIDDEN HILLS | LA PUENTE | MAYWOOD | RANCHO PALOS VERDES | SOUTH EL MONTE |
| AZUSA | CARSON | DUARTE | HUNTINGTON PARK | LAKWOOD | NORWALK | ROLLING HILLS | SOUTH GATE |
| BALDWIN PARK | CERRITOS | EL MONTE | INDUSTRY | LANCASTER | PALMDALE | ROLLING HILLS ESTATES | TEMPLE CITY |
| BELL | CLAREMONT | GARDENA | INGLEWOOD | LAWDALE | PALOS VERDES ESTATES | ROSEMEAD | WALNUT |
| BELL GARDENS | COMMERCE | GLENDDORA | IRWINDALE | LOMITA | PARAMOUNT | SAN DIMAS | WEST HOLLYWOOD |
| BELFLOWER | COVINA | HAWAIIAN GARDENS | LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE | LYNWOOD | PICO RIVERA | SANTA CLARITA | WESTLAKE VILLAGE |
| | | | LA HABRA | | | | WHITTIER |

Section 8.10.1.7.3 is very unclear. If the reference is to the County Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Squads, there are three (3), known by their station number. Each has a staff of five (5) and is paired with a 4-person engine company to make a Hazardous Materials Task Force. The closest to the project is in nearby Station 43. This section is attributed to a source which is not found in Table 8-10-15, "Contacts", or in Section 8.10.8, "References."

PROJECT IMPACT ON SERVICES:

Fire protection serving the area appears to be adequate for the existing development/land use. This project will replace an existing warehouse that occupies most of the site area. Therefore, we concur with the assessment that it would probably not have a significant impact on the level of service.

LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:

1. The proposed development may necessitate multiple ingress/egress access for the circulation of traffic, and emergency response issues. The development of this project must comply with all applicable code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows and fire hydrants.
2. Specific fire and life safety requirements for the construction phase will be addressed at the building fire plan check. There may be additional fire and life safety requirements during this time.
3. Every building constructed shall be accessible to Fire Department apparatus by way of access roadways, with an all-weather surface of not less than the prescribed width. The roadway shall be extended to within 150 feet of all portions of the exterior walls when measured by an unobstructed route around the exterior of the building.
4. Access roads shall be maintained with a minimum of ten (10) feet of brush clearance on each side. Fire access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance clear-to-sky with the exception of protected tree species. Protected tree species overhanging fire access roads shall be maintained to provide a vertical clearance of thirteen (13) feet, six (6) inches.
5. When involved with a subdivision in a city contracting fire protection with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, requirements for access, fire flows and hydrants are addressed during the subdivision tentative map stage.
6. Fire sprinkler systems are required in some residential and most commercial occupancies. For those occupancies not requiring fire sprinkler systems, it is strongly suggested that fire sprinkler systems be installed. This will reduce potential fire and life losses. Systems are now technically and economically feasible for residential use.
7. The development may require fire flows up to 5,000 gallons per minute at 20 pounds per square inch residual pressure for up to a five-hour duration. Final fire flows will be based on the size of buildings, their relationship to other structures, property lines, and types of construction used.
8. Fire hydrant spacing shall be 300 feet and shall meet the following requirements:

- a. No portion of lot frontage shall be more than 200 feet via vehicular access from a public fire hydrant.
 - b. No portion of a building shall exceed 400 feet via vehicular access from a properly spaced public fire hydrant.
 - c. Additional hydrants will be required if hydrant spacing exceeds specified distances.
 - d. When cul-de-sac depth exceeds 200 feet on a commercial street, hydrants shall be required at the corner and mid-block.
 - e. A cul-de-sac shall not be more than 500 feet in length, when serving land zoned for commercial use.
9. Turning radii shall not be less than 32 feet. This measurement shall be determined at the centerline of the road. A Fire Department approved turning area shall be provided for all driveways exceeding 150 feet in length and at the end of all cul-de-sacs.
10. All on-site driveways/roadways shall provide a minimum unobstructed width of 28 feet, clear-to-sky. The on-site driveway is to be within 150 feet of all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of any building. The centerline of the access driveway shall be located parallel to, and within 30 feet of an exterior wall on one side of the proposed structure.
11. Driveway width for non-residential developments shall be increased when any of the following conditions will exist:
- a. Provide 34 feet in width, when parallel parking is allowed on one side of the access roadway/driveway. Preference is that such parking is not adjacent to the structure.
 - b. Provide 42 feet in width, when parallel parking is allowed on each side of the access roadway/driveway.
 - c. Any access way less than 34 feet in width shall be labeled "Fire Lane" on the final recording map, and final building plans.
 - d. For streets or driveways with parking restrictions: The entrance to the street/driveway and intermittent spacing distances of 150 feet shall be posted with Fire Department approved signs stating "NO PARKING – FIRE LANE" in three-inch high letters. Driveway labeling is necessary to endure access for Fire Department use.
12. All access devices and gates shall meet the following requirements:
- a. Any single-gated opening used for ingress and egress shall be a minimum of 26 feet in width, clear-to-sky.

- b. Any divided gate opening (when each gate is used for a single-direction of travel – i.e., ingress or egress) shall be a minimum width of 20 feet clear-to-sky.
 - c. Gates and/or control devices shall be positioned a minimum of 50 feet from a public right-of-way, and shall be provided with a turnaround having a minimum of 32 feet of turning radius. If an intercom system is used, the 50 feet shall be measured from the right-of-way to the intercom control device.
 - d. All limited access devices shall be of a type approved by the Fire Department.
 - e. Gate plans shall be submitted to the Fire Department, prior to installation. These plans shall show all locations, widths and details of the proposed gates.
13. All proposals for traffic calming measures (speed humps/bumps/cushions, traffic circles, roundabouts, etc.) shall be submitted to the Fire Department for review, prior to implementation.
 14. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Land Development Unit appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project. Should any questions arise regarding subdivision, water systems, or access, please contact the County of Los Angeles Fire Department – Land Development Unit's EIR Specialist at (323) 890-4243.

FORESTRY DIVISION – OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

The statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Fire Zone 4, archeological and cultural resources, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance. The areas germane to the statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division have been addressed.

If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330.

Very truly yours,



DAVID R. LEININGER, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

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