



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

John R. Hawkins ~ Fire Chief

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(951) 940-6900 ~ www.rvcfire.org

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June 16, 2010

California Energy Commission
John Kessler, Project Manager
1515 9th Street, MS 46
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET

09-AFC-10

DATE JUL 16 2010

RECD. JUL 16 2010

RE: Rice Solar Energy Project Application for Certification (09-AFC-10)

Dear Mr. Kessler,

Thank you for providing the Riverside County Fire Department the opportunity to review Application For Certification for the Rice Solar Energy Project.

With respect to the referenced project, 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 structures, traffic and population. The applicants and 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 may include:

- Developer participation in land acquisition and fire facility construction
- Equipment upgrade and/or purchase; (*i.e. "Type 1" Fire Engine, a 100' Aerial Ladder Truck, Haz Mat and a Technical Rescue Unit*).
- 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.

It is expected that costs will change over time and therefore each funding mechanism employed shall include a method for adjusting the amount of funding to reflect current costs at the time of construction.

All water mains and fire hydrants providing required fire flows shall be constructed in accordance with the appropriate sections of Riverside County Ordinance No. 460 and/or No. 787, subject to review and approval by the Riverside County Fire Department.

Fire flow requirements within commercial projects are based on **square footage and type of construction** of the structures. The minimum fire flow for **any** commercial structure is **1500** gallons per minute, at a residual operating pressure of 20-psi, and can rise to **8000** gallons per minute, (per Table A-III of the California Fire Code).

The proposed project land use would be a Category IV – Outlying. The 3 closest Fire Stations that would respond to an incident at the proposed Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10), located adjacent to the former Rice Army Airfield in Rice, CA are:

RCO Station # 49, Lake Tamarisk, 43880 Lake Tamarisk, Desert Center, CA. 92239

RCO Station # 43 Blythe, 140 West Barnard Street, Blythe, CA. 92225

RCO Station # 45 Blythe Air Base, 17280 W. Hobson Way, Blythe, CA 92225

Riverside County Fire Station 49 is located approximately 70 miles from the project site, the second Riverside County Fire Station is located approximately 75 miles and the third Riverside County Fire Station is located approximately 77 miles from the proposed site.

From the above listed fire stations, the response time for engine 49 is approximately 1:30 to 2 hours after dispatch. The second unit, engine 43 will respond to the project area in approximately 1:45 to 2:15, the third unit, engine 45 will respond to the project area in approximately 2:30. Riverside County Fire Department Fire Stations are staffed full-time, 24 hours/7 days a week, with a minimum 3 person crew, including Paramedics, operating a “Type-1” structural fire fighting apparatus.

Based on the adopted Riverside County Fire Protection Master Plan, the Category IV – Outlying, specifies that a full alarm assignment be operating on the fire ground within 30 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. These times are approximate based on conditions and currently **do not** meet the Outlying Land Use protection goals.

Current minimum staffing levels of 3 persons per responding unit presently meet existing demands. However, 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 1, 410 acres of land, the construction of 17,500 tracking heliostats, and a receiving tower with an overall height of 653 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

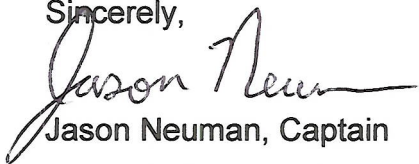
Based on the adopted Riverside County Fire Protection Master Plan, one new fire station and/or engine company is recommended for every 2,000 new dwelling units and/or 3.5 million square feet of commercial/industrial occupancy. Given the project's proposed development plan, up to ONE fire station **shall be** required to meet anticipated service demands. 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.

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 Fire Departments, and shall be maintained throughout any phasing.

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 I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (951) 940-6349 or e-mail at jason.neumann@fire.ca.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Neuman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Neuman, Captain

Strategic Planning Division

Riverside County Fire Department