



Agenda Date: 3/15/2005
Agenda Placement: 8C
Set Time: 10:00 AM PUBLIC HEARING
Estimated Report Time: 15 Minutes

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Sharon Bull for Ernie Loveless - Fire Chief
County Fire Department
REPORT BY: Tim Streblov, ,
SUBJECT: Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department

RECOMMENDATION

County Fire Chief requests the Board:

1. Declare intent to adopt a mitigated Negative Declaration for the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department's two-bay station on the east side of the Silverado Trail, about one-quarter mile north of Skellenger Lane in Rutherford; and
2. Find the proposed fire station consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department.

(STAFF REQUESTS ITEM BE WITHDRAWN. ITEM WAS NOTICED FOR BOARD ACTION BUT THE BOARD HAS DELEGATED AUTHORITY IN THIS MATTER TO THE FIRE CHIEF)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rutherford Fire Department, one of the nine volunteer fire departments within Napa County Fire Department, needs a satellite fire station on the east side of the valley floor. Plans for the proposed station seek to minimize the impact on traffic, the environment, and the view while maximizing the efficient response of the emergency personnel.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no Environmental Impact for this item.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Memorandum of Understanding between the volunteer fire departments and County requires that each volunteer department is responsible for providing facilities to house fire apparatus and equipment provided by the County. Rutherford Fire Department is proposing to construct a new satellite station to provide safe, secure and weather tight storage for apparatus and equipment. This facility enhances the County Fire Department's ability to meet operational changes caused by an increase in responses in the Silverado Trail corridor.

The station will be a "satellite" station and will house a fire engine and water tender. The site gently slopes downward to the west and is about one acre in area. Scattered mature oak trees and grassland are presently on the site. A "hammerhead" type driveway is proposed from the Silverado Trail to the building entrance. We expect about 200 responses per year, with a response normally involving one unit. Site visibility from the new driveway is very good, with approximately a 1000 foot sightline in both directions.

Water will be obtained from the on-sight well. Water usage will be very small. The property is currently undeveloped except for an 8-inch well casing near eastern property line. This well is about 10 years old and tested at over 100 gallons per minute. An easement is being secured from adjacent property owner to place 10,000 gallons of water in reserve for the exclusive use of the station from a proposed 100,000 gallon tank located on the parcel above the building. This tank will be used for fire prevention and to refill fire apparatus. Irrigation will be limited to establishing new oak trees and only a toilet and sink are proposed in the building. Wastewater will be accomplished with a septic system and leach lines on the slope below the building. A septic feasibility report was done with Environmental Health Department in April 2004.

An archeological study identified a potentially sensitive site in the proposed driveway's northern portion. The mitigation will be limited to leaving existing soils and surface grasses in place, allowing for filling where needed, but no below grade disturbance in this area. Three mature oak trees will likely be removed for the building and/or driveway. At least 12 new oak trees will be planted on the slope below the building to visually "shield" the building in the future.

The building will be a steel structure, 38 feet x 50 feet with 2 roll-up doors on the north side. To improve architectural/aesthetic features, a steep roof, stucco-appearance siding, windows, cupolas and other features are planned. The soil conditions on the proposed site have lead to two possible methods for the building pad, a "cut" pad or "cut/fill" pad (in both cases avoiding the potentially sensitive archeological area discussed above). The final decision will be determined based on the construction cost and how difficult it is to excavate the rock at the project site.

The station will be used for fire department purposes only. Additionally, should the structure ever cease its use as a fire station, it will either be required to adopt a use that conforms to the zoning in place on the parcel at that time, or be removed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Michael Stoltz