

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

440



**FROM:** Economic Development Agency

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**

April 25, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Mesa Verde – Blythe Airport Water System Improvements – Adoption of Mitigated Negative Declaration

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the *De Minimus* Findings as there is no evidence that the proposed project will have an adverse effect upon wildlife resources; and
2. Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the environmental assessment for the construction of the water production facility, storage tank, and pipelines in the unincorporated community of Mesa Verde and the Blythe Airport based on the findings incorporated in the initial study and the conclusion that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and

Continued on page 2

Departmental Concurrence

*Bradley J. Hudson*  
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Bradley J. Hudson, Assistant CEO/EDA

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS: \$6,000,000 Desert Communities Project Area, Blythe Airport Sub-Area, Capital Improvement Fund</b>	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** **APPROVE** FORM APPROVED  
COUNTY COUNSEL

MAY 05 2005

**County Executive Office Signature** *Bronda King* **BY** *Lee A. Vinograd*

Dept't Recomm.:  Consent  Policy   
 Per Exec. Ofc.:  Consent  Policy

**Prev. Agn. Ref.:** 3.5 of 2/26/02  
3.3 of 3/26/05 **District:** 4th **Agenda Number:**

**ATTACHMENTS FILED  
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD**

3.9

3. Make the following findings:

- a. The project is consistent with all the elements of the Riverside County Comprehensive General Plan;
- b. The project is compatible with the present and future development of the surrounding property;
- c. The project conforms to the public health, safety and welfare; and
- d. There is no evidence that the project will have an adverse effect on wildlife resources.

4. Make the following findings in accordance with *Section 33445* of the Health and Safety Code:

- a. The proposed water system improvements are a benefit to the Blythe Airport Sub–Area of the Desert Communities Project Area (DCPA);
- b. No other reasonable means of financing the cost of the project are available. The project will serve a predominantly low-income area without private interest or funding for the project, and all public funding has been committed to other projects;
- c. The project will assist in the elimination of physical and economic blighting conditions; and
- d. The proposed project is consistent with the Redevelopment Plan adopted for the DCPA.

5. Approve the project and authorize the Economic Development Agency to proceed with the design and development of the project.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2002, the Board of Supervisors, the City of Blythe, and the Blythe Redevelopment Agency, approved an inter-jurisdictional agreement designating the Blythe Redevelopment Agency as the agency for territory added to Project Area No. 1, which included certain unincorporated area of the County as well as portions of the City of Blythe. The unincorporated area included the Blythe Airport and the community of Mesa Verde.

The Blythe Redevelopment Agency recently conducted a bond sale to generate funds to finance various infrastructure improvements in Project Area No. 1 including upgrades and improvements to the existing water systems at the Blythe Airport and Mesa Verde (CSA 122). Consequently, the Mesa Verde/Blythe Airport Water System Improvement Project has been proposed. The key benefit to CSA 122 and the residents of Mesa Verde will be an adequate, dependable, safe, and affordable supply of water for domestic uses and fire flow. The improved water system will also provide adequate water for commercial development north of Interstate 10 and fire flow for the two Blythe Energy power plants.

**Form 11 – Mesa Verde Blythe Airport Water System**

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The project consists of the following:

- A new 1500 gallon per minute well, a 1,000,000 gallon reservoir, and treatment facilities (if necessary) to be located at the Blythe Airport;
- Construction of a 12" water pipeline connecting County Service Area 122 (Mesa Verde) to the Blythe Airport water production facilities; and
- Construction of an 18" pipeline providing service to the Blythe Airport, the Blythe Energy facilities, and commercial development.

The development cost of the entire project has been estimated to be \$6,000,000. All costs will be paid from the Blythe Redevelopment Agency, Project Area No. 1 Bond Proceeds. The Economic Development Agency has agreed to manage and administer the project. Payments will be processed through the Redevelopment Agency for the County of Riverside's Desert Communities Project Area, Capital Improvement Fund.

The civil engineering firm of *Albert A. Webb Associates* has been selected, through and RFP/RFQ process, for project design, engineering, construction documents, and construction management services. EDA is currently negotiating a final fee for these services.

The City of Blythe will own and operate all of the new water production facilities and pipelines north of Interstate 10. CSA 122 will be responsible for all water system improvements south of Interstate 10. The County and the City of Blythe will also complete negotiations for the sale of water from the City to CSA 122.

A Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration was published April 21, 2005. A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared and will be filed upon adoption.

Attachments:

1. Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration
2. Initial Study
3. Proof of Publication