

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

533



FROM: Economic Development Agency

SUBMITTAL DATE:
April 14, 2006

SUBJECT: Public Hearing, Environmental Findings and Site Approval for the
Thousand Palms Fire Station and Fire Technology Training Center

Brandl
 Reviewed by
CIP TEAM
 Departmental Concurrence

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the *De Minimus* Finding, as there is no evidence that the proposed project will have a potential or adverse effect on wildlife resources;
2. Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the environmental assessment for the construction of a 7,800-square-foot, 3-bay, heavy-urban fire station and a 4,500-square-foot Fire Technology Training Center based on the findings incorporated in the initial study and the conclusion that, with mitigation, the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment;
3. Make the following findings:
 - a. The project is consistent with all the elements of the Riverside County Comprehensive General Plan and the Western Coachella Valley Community 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.

(Motion continued on page 2)



 Robin Zimpfer
 Assistant County Executive Officer/EDA

RZ:JC:DL:RF:TE:JT:MC

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	2005/06

COMPANION ITEM ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA: Yes

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Sra Brandl

APR 19 2006

County Executive Office Signature BY *Lee A. Sincow*

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

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.63,9/27/05 **District:** 4th District **Agenda Number:**

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

9.4

RECOMMENDED MOTION (CONTINUED):

4. Approve the proposed site (APN # 650-331-029), located on the northeast corner of Ramon Road and Robert Road in Thousand Palms, for the development of a 7,800-square-foot, 3-bay, heavy-urban fire station and the Fire Technology Training Center;
5. Approve and authorize the Redevelopment Agency to proceed with the development of the fire station and Fire Technology Training Center;
6. Conduct a public hearing, pursuant to Section 33679 of the Health and Safety Code; and
7. Make the following findings:
 - a. The project will assist in the elimination of physical blighting conditions by providing essential public facilities necessary to improve public safety;
 - b. The project will benefit the Desert Communities Project Area by providing essential public facilities necessary to improve public safety;
 - c. The community of Thousand Palms is predominantly a low-moderate income community, and community, and, therefore, no other reasonable means of financing the project are available to the community; and
 - d. The proposed facility is consistent with the Desert Communities Redevelopment Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The unincorporated community of Thousand Palms has grown to the point where the existing fire station (#35) can no longer adequately serve the public safety needs of the community. The location of the existing station limits effective and proper access to response routes, and the size of the facility will not allow increased staffing levels and the preferred inventory of equipment needed in Thousand Palms.

Consequently, the Redevelopment Agency and the County Fire Department have proposed the construction of a new 7,800-square-foot, 3-bay, heavy urban fire station on a 3.3-acre site (APN# 650-331-029) located on the northeast corner of Ramon Road and Robert Road, west of the Thousand Palms Post Office. The new station and improved location will greatly enhance public safety in the community.

In addition, EDA and the County Fire Department are proposing the construction of a 4,500-square-foot Fire Technology Training Center adjacent to the new fire station. This multi-purpose facility will be used in conjunction with the College of the Desert's (COD) Public Safety Academy's Fire Technology Program. This important program addresses vital community safety needs to ensure there will be well trained and skilled fire personnel in the Coachella Valley and eastern Riverside County. Furthermore, COD will develop the remainder of the 3.3-acre site including specialized training facilities and equipment. The total project is anticipated to cost \$6,000,000. Funding will be drawn from Fire Mitigation funds and DCPA Redevelopment Agency Funding.

The environmental review for the development of the proposed facility has been completed. Based upon the Initial Study, there will be no significant environmental impact. Staff recommends an adoption of the *De Minimus* Finding.

(Background continued on page 3)

A Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration was published February 18, 2006. To date, no comments have been received. A Negative Declaration has been prepared and will be filed upon adoption. Staff recommends that the Board conduct the public hearing, pursuant to Section 33679 of the California Health and Safety Code. Attached is a Section 33679 Summary Report which has been made available to the public, detailing the facts supporting the redevelopment purpose for this project.

Attachments:

1. Mitigated Negative Declaration
2. *De Minimus* Impact Finding
3. Proof of Publication for Environmental Review
4. Section 33679 Summary Report
5. Proof of Publication for Public Hearing
6. CEQA Initial Study