Menlo Park Fire Protection District

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CITY OF MENLO PARK
BUILDING

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Response to the Draft Environmental Impact Report
Menlo Gateway Project – SCH#2005062161
Fire and Emergency Services – Impacts and Mitigation Measures - 3.10

As was communicated to Tessa Munekiyo with Bay Area Economics on June 4, 2009, the Fire District believes that the Gateway Project will have a ***negative impact*** on its ability to provide proper emergency services to the project if multi-story structures (high rise) are constructed.

The reason for this impact is the District's ability to adequately respond to high rise structures with an aerial ladder truck. The Fire District's only aerial ladder truck is located at Fire Station 1 (300 Middlefield Road) which is 3.1 miles from the site.

Acceptable standards for urban aerial ladder truck coverage are based upon a maximum distance of 2.5 miles, thus the Fire District has deemed the coverage unacceptable and the impacts of the project as negative.

The Fire District has determined that the Gateway Project would trigger the need to convert an existing Engine Company located at Fire Station 77 (1467 Chilco Street) to a Truck company. For purposes of this report Engines carry hose and water while Trucks carry ladders and special rescue equipment for technical rescues associated with multi-story high rise structures. Engine companies are staffed with three personnel and Truck companies are often staffed with four personnel so three additional firefighters would be needed (one per shift) to staff the truck per the provisions of the Districts labor agreement.

While the District could move the existing aerial ladder truck closer to the project by locating it at Fire Station 77, such a move would compromise aerial truck service to the other portions of the of the Fire District, such as downtown Menlo Park and Sharon Heights unless the project provided for another aerial ladder truck on the eastern side of the city due to the impacts of this multi-story project.

The District anticipates that the one time cost of an aerial ladder truck is between $1 – 1.5m based upon specifications. Service life of an aerial ladder truck is anticipated at 12 – 15 years. Annual maintenance specific to an aerial ladder truck would cost the District an additional $1000.00 per year and personnel costs for three additional positions (one per shift) based upon each employees actual seniority, skills, pay grade and benefits could cost the Fire District between $165,700.00 – 244,887.03 per year.

The Fire District has communicated on several occasions that the impacts of high rise construction on the eastern edge of the City of Menlo Park and the Fire District will create additional demands on the Fire District. These demands can only be adequately mitigated through apparatus configuration and staffing changes due to the life safety and fire hazard challenges associated with multi-story, high rise, structures.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank You

Harold Schapelhouman, Fire Chief
Menlo Park Fire Protection District