



October 12, 2009

Folsom/El Dorado Irrigation District Emergency Water Intertie Project Response to Comments to the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Resident,

This letter is to provide you with an update to the Folsom/EID Emergency Water Intertie Project. The City is continuing to proceed with completing the design and environmental review of the Folsom/EID Emergency Water Intertie Project. The environmental review and comment period ended on Tuesday September 8th, 2009.

During the review period, the City received several letters, e-mails and/or phone calls regarding the proposed project. Below is a summation of the comments and the City's response in accordance with the public process procedures of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Each comment below has been listed in question/answer form:

Question #1: Why can't the above ground structure be located somewhere else?

Answer #1: The current Pressure Reducing Station location was chosen for several reasons. First, even though this is a joint project, the Pressure Reducing Station portion of the project (i.e. the above ground structure) is a City of Folsom operated facility, which necessitates that it be located within the City's service area boundary. This means that the structure needs to be located west of the County Line within the City limits of Folsom.

Also, the current location of the Pressure Reducing Station was chosen as the best economical and environmentally sound location. The structure cannot be located to the North due to the riparian habitat and wetland area. Relocating the structure to the South, would require the construction of additional waterline infrastructure along Sophia Parkway (the current waterline located within Sophia Parkway terminates at Alexandra Way) and would significantly increase construction costs. There is insufficient room to move the structure any further to the West since it is currently adjacent to the sidewalk and Muirkirk Court. Relocating the structure to the East would place the station within El Dorado County.

Question #2: Why can't the structure be located below ground?

Answer #2: Locating the structure below ground increases construction cost and makes repairs, maintenance and operational procedures difficult for the City's Operation and Maintenance Division.

Question #3: How large will the structure be?

Answer #3: The City has been working diligently with Domenichelli & Associates to reduce the overall height of the structure. The structure itself will be enclosed in a Safe-T-Cover that is approximately 12 feet wide, by 5 feet deep, by 5 feet tall and tan in color. The above ground structure as mentioned in the Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration would not substantially change the visual character or quality of the area because of the surrounding existing development. A typographical error in the environmental documents stated a cyclone fence will be placed around the pressure reducing station. This is not the case. The pressure reducing station is a freestanding secure enclosure that does not require fencing.

Question #4: The Mitigated Negative Declaration states that the project site is located within a quarter mile buffer from a known area containing Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA). What Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to avoid the potential release of asbestos form particulates?

Answer #4: Per the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program the construction documents will require the contractor to comply with both the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Fugitive Dust Rule 223-2 and Sacramento Area Quality Management District fugitive dust management requirements. The project would implement the recommended BMPs during the grading and earthmoving phases of work to help ensure less-than-significant impacts to PM₁₀ air quality emissions and the potential release of asbestos from particulates. These BMPs will be included in the AQMD required Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan Application.

Question #5: How will the construction of this project impact the home price in the vicinity of the structure?

Answer #5: Comment noted. Pursuant to CEQA, § 15131(a) "Economic or social effects of a project shall not be treated as significant effects on the environment". The purpose of the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project is to address issues of environmental impacts.

Currently, this item will be brought forward to City Council for consideration at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 10th, 2009.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Vaughn Fleischbein, Folsom Utilities Department Project Manager, at either vfleischbein@folsom.ca.us or (916) 351-3415 or visit (<http://www.folsom.ca.us/depts/utilities/default.asp>).

Sincerely,

Vaughn Fleischbein, PE
Assistant Civil Engineer
Folsom Utilities Department

Telephone (916) 355-7272 / Fax (916) 351-5603