

County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060 (831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123

KATHY MALLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

November 9, 2010

Agenda Date: December 8,2010

Item #: 9

Time: After 9 AM APN: 080-251-31 Application: 10-0056

Planning Commission County of Santa Cruz 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject:

Appeal of Application 10-0056

APN:

080-251-31

Applicant:

William Fisher Architecture, Inc.

Owner:

County of Santa Cruz

Site Address:

7272 Empire Grade Road, Bonny Doon

Members of the Commission:

An appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of Application 10-0056 (an apparatus building at the Bonny Doon fire station) was scheduled to be heard by your Commission on October 13, 2010. The hearing was continued to this agenda at the request of Cal Fire.

The attached exhibit (1-A) is a report to the Board of Supervisors recommending the abandonment of the Fall Creek Station Apparatus Building Installation Project. The Board of Supervisors approved this recommendation on October 26, 2010. The following exhibit (1-B) is an email withdrawing the application for the apparatus building from Cal Fire.

Since the application has been withdrawn, staff recommends you accept and file this report.

Sincerely

Lawrence Kasparowit Project Planner

Development Review

Reviewed By: Cathy Graves Principal Planner Chams)

CC:

Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Inc.

Steve Homan, REHS Donita Springmeyer

Russ Mackey

Exhibits:

- 1-A. Report to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Fall Creek Station Apparatus Installation Project (#09C1-008), dated October 14, 2010.
- 1-B. Email from Cal Fire Deputy Chief Kathleen Lineberry withdrawing application 10-0056, dated October 28, 2010.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS INDEX SHEET

Creation Date:

10/20/10

Source Code:

GENSV

Agenda Date:

10/26/10

INVENUM:

64476

Resolution(s):

288-2010

Ordinance(s):

Contract(s):

Continue Date(s):

Index: --Letter of the Director of General Services dated October 14, 2010

--Resolution

--AUD74 Request for Transfer or Revision of Budget Appropriations and/or funds

Item: 56.1 DIRECTED General Services to abandon the Fall Creek Station Apparatus Building Installation Project; directed the County Fire Chief to have the Fall Creek CALFIRE engine company respond on a County Fire engine from McDermott Station during the winter period (November through May); adopted RESOLUTION NO. 288-2010 canceling estimated revenues and appropriations; and approved related actions, as recommended by the Director of General Services



County of Santa Cruz

GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 330, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073 (831) 454-2210 FAX: (831) 454-2710 TDD: (831) 454-2123

APPROVED AND FILE BANCY GORDON, DIRECTOR

October 14, 2010

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Agenda: October 26, 2010

Board of Supervisors SUS

701 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Fall Creek Station Apparatus Building Installation Project Project #09C1-008

Dear Members of the Board:

On October 5, 2010 your Board directed staff to report back today with a recommendation for the Fall Creek Station Apparatus Building Installation Project. This project was initiated after a CAL FIRE engine company was moved to the Bonny Doon area in 2009 to improve emergency response to the community. This engine company provides 24 hour emergency response not only during the period when the County contracts for this service from CAL FIRE (November through May), but also during declared fire season (June through October) at no cost to the County. Although the CAL FIRE fire engine has been housed in a temporary metal covering, the current structure is not adequate to provide the security and shelter from the elements necessary to protect the fire engine and meet Insurance Services Office (ISO) requirements. (ISO ratings are based, in part, on distances from fire stations; for a structure to qualify as a fire station it must protect fire apparatus from the weather and be heated.) Staff's investigations into alternatives to building a stand-alone apparatus structure to house the CAL FIRE engine have led to two additional possibilities.

Option 1 - Proceed with the Fall Creek Station Apparatus Building Installation Project As detailed on October 5, 2010, this apparatus building project has been out to bid twice, the second time with revisions to the specifications that were intended to reduce the cost of the project. However, on both occasions the bids received were over double the \$50,000 engineer's estimate and corresponding funds available for the project. It is likely that landscaping/screening will also be required, further increasing the cost of the project.

In addition, there has been opposition from some members of the Bonny Doon community to the placement of the proposed structure in relation to the property's existing septic tank system drainfield and the possible impact to parking and traffic flow, as well as to the size and appearance of the structure itself. A decision is pending on an appeal Bonny Doon Fire and Rescue, Inc. filed with Planning's Zoning Administrator regarding various issues concerning the project.

Option 2 - Extend Existing Apparatus Bay(s) of McDermott Station

The first of the two additional options investigated is to extend one or two of the three existing apparatus bays of McDermott Station. If two of the bays were extended, the CAL FIRE engine

Page 2/Agenda: October 26, 2010
Fall Creek Station Apparatus Building Installation Project

could be sheltered, and would not block County emergency response apparatus. Instead, the County apparatus could be "stacked" behind one another, leaving the volunteers full egress to the vehicles. Extending the existing apparatus bays would not impact parking or traffic flow. In addition, increasing the square footage of the building would improve the site's alternate use as a disaster/community center, thereby benefiting the Bonny Doon community. However, the architect has estimated that the cost of this alternative would be similar to that of the stand-alone structure. In addition, Bonny Doon Fire & Rescue Inc. has previously raised objections to this proposal based upon their lease agreement with the County for a portion of the property, including the McDermott Fire Station.

Option 3 - Move the CAL FIRE Engine during the Winter Period

Another option considered by staff is to move the CAL FIRE fire engine to a sheltered location during the County-funded portion of the year (November through May), and have the CAL FIRE engine company respond on a County Fire apparatus out of McDermott Station. This would mirror what takes place during the County's contractual period in the Corralitos and Davenport communities, where from November through May, the CAL FIRE engine companies respond on County Fire apparatus. In the Loma Prieta and Saratoga Summit/Las Cumbres communities, CAL FIRE engine company personnel respond on County Fire equipment or CAL FIRE equipment, depending on the type of emergency response required.

Option 3 is fiscally responsible, since no funds would be spent on a building project. Additionally, the CAL FIRE contract with the County would be reduced since the County would not be "renting" a CAL FIRE fire engine in the Bonny Doon community for seven months during the winter period. At a time when funds are limited and the County Fire Department is faced with ever increasing costs to comply with safety standards and regulatory requirements, these funds could be used more effectively to meet other demands within the Department, (e.g., maintaining ISO ratings, safety clothing and gear for emergency response personnel, recruitment and retention of volunteers, deferred facility maintenance, etc.).

The most current records available indicate that response on one of the County Fire apparatus by the Fall Creek engine company during the winter period should have minimal impact on the volunteers, since there are fewer qualified volunteer drivers in Bonny Doon than there are fire apparatus. (Currently, there are six fire apparatus in the Bonny Doon area: 5 owned by County Fire and one owned by Bonny Doon Fire & Rescue, Inc.) In addition, the volunteers would be encouraged to respond on the County Fire equipment with the CAL FIRE engine company personnel, thereby building communication, cooperation, and teamwork.

During fire season (June through October), the CAL FIRE fire engine would be moved back to the temporary shelter at Fall Creek Station. With some improvements (e.g., a door), the shelter might be adequate for the less harsh months of the year.

After weighing the benefits of each option, staff recommends your Board approve Option 3 — moving the CAL FIRE engine during the winter period. This option is the most fiscally responsible; frees limited funds for more pressing needs; mirrors operations already in place and proven to be successful in other areas of the County Fire Department; and provides the opportunity to improve communication, cooperation, and teamwork between volunteer and paid County Fire staff. These options were presented to the Fire Department Advisory Commission at their October 13, 2010 meeting. The commission unanimously endorsed Option 3.





Page 3/Agenda: October 26, 2010

Fall Creek Station Apparatus Building Installation Project

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

- 1. Direct the General Services Director to abandon the Fall Creek Station Apparatus Building Installation Project (Project # 09C1-008);
- 2. Direct the County Fire Chief to have the Fall Creek CAL FIRE engine company respond on a County Fire fire engine from McDermott Station during the winter period (November through May); and
- 3. Direct the Auditor-Controller to transfer the balance of the funds allocated for the Fall Creek Station Apparatus Building Installation Project (Project # 09C1-008) to County Fire contingencies as detailed on the attached AUD 61 and AUD 74.

Very truly yours,

Nancy Gordon

Director

NCG/DM

Attachments: AUD61

AUD74

CC:

General Services
County Fire
Auditor-Controller
GSD Sr. Acct. Tech.

RECOMMENDED:

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO County Administrative Officer

EXHIBIT1A

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 288-2010

On the motion of Supervisor	Coonerty	
Duly seconded by Supervisor		
The following resolution is ac		

RESOLUTION CANCELLING ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz adopted by resolution certain estimated revenues and appropriations for the final budget; and

WHEREAS, certain of the estimated revenues will now not be realized; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 29126.1, the Board of Supervisors may cancel any unused appropriation in whole or in part upon determining that the source of funding will be unrealized in whole or in part;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Santa Cruz County Auditor-Controller cancel estimated revenues in the amount of \$43,352.41 in the following Department budget:

T/C	Index Number	Revenue Sub-Object Number	Account Name	Amount
002	191165	2462	Operating Transfers In	\$43,352.

and that appropriation be cancelled as follows:

T/C	Index Number	Expenditure Sub-Object Number	PRJ/UCD	Account Name	Amount
022	191165	6610	09C1-008	Bldgs & Improv	\$43,352.

DEPARTMENT HEAD: I hereby certify that the fiscal provisions have been researched and are sufficient to allow entering in the County records.

By Department Head

Date 10/14/10 EXHIBITIA

23 56.1

County Administrative Officer			/ <u>\</u>	mended to Board	rd		
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COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OR REVISION
OF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AND/OR FUNDS

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October 25, 2010

Board of Supervisors County of Santa Cruz 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor Santa Cruz, CA 95060

> Consent Agenda Item 23: October 26, 2010 Re:

October 14, 2010 General Services Letter regarding the Fall Creek Station

Apparatus Building Installation Project

Project #09C1-008

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Please remove subject Item 23 from the October 26, 2010 Consent Agenda, so that members of the public may speak regarding this matter.

Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Inc. is the sole leaseholder of the McDermott Volunteer Fire Station, located at 7276 Empire Grade Road. Our Board was never consulted regarding the recent proposed changes of the "Fall Creek Station Apparatus Building Installation Project". The Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Inc. Board has been left out of discussing and planning the proposed changes, even though our organization continues to operate in "good faith" with County Fire Administration.

The Board of Supervisors requested on January 27, 2009 that a Bonny Doon community adhoc committee be formed to collaborate on the location and planning of the Fall Creek Station. Members of our Board and community members attended multiple committee meetings and reviewed multiple proposals, in order to mutually formalize a final plan that would provide the least negative impact to the volunteer Fire Team; while still allowing Cal Fire and CSA 48 to create a functional Fire Station to be temporarily co-located at the McDermott site.

It is obvious from Ms. Gordon's latest proposal that the intentions of County Fire Administration have drastically changed (See footnote). This latest proposal is in direct opposition to previous statements and agreements regarding this matter. The latest proposal disregards all previous collaborative agreements between our Board and County Fire Administration.

Additionally, the absence of including our organization in the latest change of plans demonstrated an obvious lack of "good faith" from the County and County Fire Management. Proposed plans for the engine garage where not in accordance with our alleged previous agreement with County Fire Management; a \$1515 appeal was filed against the engine garage permit application; County Fire Management then requested a continuance; and then

7276 Empire Grade, Santa Cruz CA 95060 (R)

Tel: (831) 426-1561 Fax: (831) 426-4591

immediately proposed the latest change in plans once again – all without any communication to our organization. At a minimum, this latest turn of events should warrant immediate dialog with our organization and mutually agreed upon plans should be finalized in a collaborative fashion.

To summarize our position, the Board of Directors of Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Inc states the following:

- Our Board is the sole lease holder of McDermott Station, fully-paid in advance through June 6, 2040;
- We request removal of Subject Item 23 from the October 26, 2010 Consent Agenda;
- We emphatically disagree with the latest recommendation from Nancy Gordon dated October 14, 2010;
- We should have been consulted and participated in the recent proposed change in plans;
- We continue to act in "good faith" regarding the location and operation of the Fall Creek Station;
- We have operated under the impression that a mutually agreed upon solution was finalized with Chief Ferreira on October 3, 2009, regarding the location and construction of a replacement temporary engine shelter at the McDermott Station site;
- We continue to support the construction of a replacement temporary engine shelter per our agreement of October 3, 2009;
- Last year, our organization provided an estimate for a building that would meet and exceed Cal Fire specifications with a cost estimate well within the original \$40,500 budget estimate.

We welcome and encourage any and all direct communication from County Fire Administration regarding the above matters to achieve an agreeable plan.

Sincerely,

Robert Caldeira

Chairman, Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Inc.

* Footnote:

- February 4, 2009 "Recommendation of Location for CAL FIRE Engine Company in Bonny Doon Community", (Approved and Filed on February 10, 2009) "...volunteers to retain the use of the service bays..." and furthermore "...mitigate the impact to the Bonny Doon volunteers' operations."
- May 14, 2009 "MOU with Cal Fire for Occupancy of County Property and Status Report on CAL FIRE Engine Company Move to Fall Creek Station", (Approved and Filed June 16, 2009) – "...minimize the impact to the Bonny Doon volunteer fire company's operations."

EXHIBITIA 5701

CC: GSA Director Nancy Gordon
Chief John Ferreira
Dep Chief Kathleen Lineberry
Phillip Passafuime, Legal Counselor for BDVF/R, Inc.

October 24, 2010

Russ Mackey Friends of Bonny Doon Fire Bonny Doon CA 95060 Rmackey411@Comcast.Net 831.427.1630

VIA FAX

Page 1 of 2

10/26/10 AGENDA

#23 Bango of Supervisors

Honorable Supervisors Campos, Pirie, Leopold, Stone & Coonerty:

RE: Item 23, October 26, 2010 Agenda – Fall Creek Apparatus Building

The staff report and recommendation for Item 23 on your agenda for October 26, 2010 is incomplete and misleading. It does little more than externalize the reason why a temporary apparatus building has NOT been constructed at the Fall Creek Cal Fire Station. Your Board authorized this project on February 10, 2009.

Cal Fire proposes to abandon plans to construct the apparatus building. Bonny Doon Fire believes that an apparatus building should be constructed, and that prior commitments should be honored.

THIS ISSUE CAN BE EASILY AND AFFORDABLY RESOLVED. All that is needed is for the County to grant a set-back variance to allow a temporary structure meeting Cal Fire's needs to replace the existing temporary structure in situ.

I ask your board to support the issuance of a variance to allow the simple replacement of one temporary building with another. This would meet Cal Fire's needs, be accomplished within the original budgeted amount and would make moot the objections to the most recent plan presented by Cal Fire.

Below I provide a very brief background highlighting key events that have resulted in this issue coming to your attention today. If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to call. I believe that this issue can be resolved to the benefit of all parties.

Sincerely.

FAXED TO 454 2327

Background

Russ Mackey page 2 of 2

There are two back stories for this issue: 1) FDAC support for Item #23 before you and, 2) Why the structure funded by your Board in 2009 has not yet been constructed.

The FDAC vote was not simply to halt construction at McDermott Station. Two distinct and separate issues were intimately intertwined. The suspension of construction of the apparatus building was said to produce a "savings" of nearly \$170,000. That "saved money" could then be used, this fiscal year, to purchase of a new water tender for placement at the South Skyline Cal Fire Station. The FDAC did vote to recommend that the water tender be purchased.

The amount of actual "saving" at Fall Creek was never questioned by the FDAC members.

Construction of an Apparatus Building - brief history

January 2009, Cal Fire proposed a simple temporary structure, adjacent to the existing residence, possibly with a dirt floor. Bonny Doon supported this proposal.

February 2009, Cal Fire estimates the mutually agreeable structure will cost \$40,500

June to August 2009, Design and location plans are changed multiple times by Cal Fire. Bonny Doon Fire continues to support the original plan.

September 1, 2009, Bonny Doon provided an estimate from Quail Buildings of Hollister to Chief Ferreira and Supervisor Coonerty. This option met Cal Fire's described needs, would fit in the agreed location, and cost was within the budgeted amount of \$40,500.

September 16, 2009, FDAC voted to recommend an add-on to the front of McDermott Station IF Bonny Doon Fire was unlikely to be able to stop such construction. This was described as the "least expensive option" (NOTE: The cost of this option has now been revised to be in the \$100,000 range, similar to the most recent proposed free-standing building)

October 2009, Bonny Doon and Cal Fire AGAIN agree to construction of a new temporary apparatus building located where the current temporary building is located.

Current, October 2010, Bonny Doon and Cal Fire disagree about the impacts of the current building proposal, one that violates all manner of prior agreements. The cost of the proposal is well over \$150,000 and Bonny Doon posits that the proposed building site has multiple problems. A Planning Commission a hearing has been scheduled for December 8th. Cal Fire now proposes to abandon the project,

RE: Item 23, Board of Supervisors Agenda, 10/26/2010

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to request that your Board continue item #23 until such time as a meeting can be held that includes Supervisor Coonerty, GSA Dir. Gordon, Cal Fire/CSA 48 Chief Ferreira, the Board Directors of the Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc., and the County Planning Director. This matter could easily be resolved by such an ad hoc committee meeting.

One reason that this and related matters keep ending up in front of your Board and in front of the Planning Commission is that the management style of the County Fire Administration continues to be "no contact, no consultation, no meetings, and unilateral decision making" for matters regarding the McDermott Station site and Fall Creek Station.

Another reason that this matter keeps returning is that the County Fire Administration keeps changing its plans, regardless of previous agreements on this and other subjects. I understand the Chief's frustrations, but fire protection is his area of expertise, not site planning, zoning, variances, CEQA reviews, scenic roads, front setbacks, septic tank systems, and Development Permit reviews. If he will just consult with the Fire Team Board and some community members, he will find that there is a great deal of talent and intelligence available regarding these matters, and there is the will in Bonny Doon to solve problems in a win/win manner. Continuing on with constant changes in strategy, plans, and policy unilaterally will likely continue to cause appeals and other legal responses. The BDVFR Inc. Board and community can help County Fire Administration get it right for this site.

Finally, giving up on the engine shelter and transferring the funds for other uses looks childish and punitive, like taking your football home when you do not like the score. No one I know in Bonny Doon thinks that Cal Fire/County Fire should not have a temporary engine shelter constructed on this site. What many people do think is that the site planning needs to be done correctly, and in accordance with county planning, zoning, and sewage disposal ordinances, as well as provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. County Fire is not exempt from CEQA review and associated laws.

The replacement building should be located appropriately on the site, and be of a size similar to the present un-permitted structure, which would be adequate if it had a slab floor, secure doors, and a small heater. This problem is not impossible to solve.

Please continue this item and convene a meeting of the interested and affected parties.

Sincerely, Steve Homan, REHS, B.S. Bonny Doon Property Owner and Resident 34 Years

CBD BOSMAIL

From:

cbdbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Sent:

Monday, October 25, 2010 7:31 PM

To:

CBD BOSMAIL

Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date: 10/26/2010

Item Number: 23

Name: Steve Homan

Email: sdh@cruzio.com

Address: Bonny Doon

Phone: (831-423-7790)

Comments:

RE: Item 23, Board of Supervisors Agenda, 10/26/2010

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to request that your Board continue item #23 until such time as a meeting can be held that includes Supervisor Coonerty, GSA Dir. Gordon, Cal Fire/CSA 48 Chief Ferreira, the Board Directors of the Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc., and the County Planning Director. This matter could easily be resolved by such an ad hoc committee meeting.

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EXHIBITIA 60:133

This problem is not impossible to see a

Please continue this item and convene a meeting of the interested and affected parties.

Sincerely,

Steve Homan, REHS, B.S. Bonny Doon Property Owner and Resident 34 Years



Lawrence Kasparowitz

From:

Lineberry, Kathleen [Kathleen.Lineberry@fire.ca.gov]

Sent:

Thursday, October 28, 2010 11:17 AM

To:

Lawrence Kasparowitz

Cc:

Muir, Denise

Subject:

RE: Bonny Doon Fire Station

To:

Lawrence Kasparowitz

Urban Designer

Given the Board of Supervisors action on Tuesday September 23, 2010, on Agenda Item 56.1, County Fire would like to withdraw our Building Application 10-0056, Project #9C1-008.

Thank you,

Kathleen Lineberry Deputy Chief CAL FIRE San Mateo/Santa Cruz 831-254-1701