



# EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

*"Serving the Communities of El Dorado Hills, Rescue and Latrobe"*

January 25, 2018

Sue Hennike  
Principal Administrative Analyst  
Chief Administrative Office  
El Dorado County  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Request for payment of \$798,693.13 from Development Fee Account

Dear Sue,

Back in October of 2016 my Finance Director Jessica Braddock contacted Bob Toscano and officially requested \$798,693.13 from our development fee account. This amount represented the remaining development fee share of the construction costs for the re-build of our Fire Station 84 which is located at 2180 Francisco Drive. This request was made pursuant to our 2013 – 2018 Development Fee Plan that was approved by the El Dorado Hills County Water District (Fire Department) Board of Directors, and later adopted by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

The station re-build was approved and adopted under our 2013 – 2018 facilities master plan, and was to be funded at 50% from our General Fund and 50% from our Development Fee Fund. To date the County has transferred \$1,944,855 in qualified development fee expenditures for this project, and the \$798,693.13 represents the remaining balance of the 50% share of qualified expense. The rationale behind this 50/50 allocation was as follows;

1. The original station was built by Volunteers as a simple cinder block barn to house two engines for our Volunteer force. Originally, there was no area for 24/7 staffing, and the building did not meet the requirements for Essential Services. When we staffed that station, we made minor modifications which allowed for 24/7 staffing, but due to its original construction it could not be brought to the required building code for Essential Services, and the limited design did not allow capacity for enhanced services that were required as that district grew. The re-design and complete re-build allowed us to accomplish several key service and capacity enhancements. The major enhancements are as follows:
  - a. With minimal modifications, we admittedly increased station staffing to three personnel 24/7. It is important to note that while we made this arrangement work, the station was inadequate for the staffing level. The original station was only 4144 sq. ft. which greatly limited the capacity of services and the equipment we could house to protect Fire District 84. The new station is 10,633 sq. ft. which more than doubled our capacity.
  - b. The new station meets the essential standard for emergency services.

- c. We added a Water Rescue Squad and Rescue Boat to facilitate emergency response to Folsom Lake and the American River, which are both in District 84.
- d. Due to the severe Wildland & Structure Fire threat in that area, coupled with a lack of fire hydrants, we added a Water Tender that provides critical firefighting support where water is not available.

These capacity and service additions were the basis for my Board of Directors approving the 50/50 general/development fee fund share. With the above criteria, my Board of Directors felt that the 50/50 share was conservative, and while they felt that more of the burden could have been contributed to development they settled on the 50/50 plan as a very safe and justifiable strategy. In a 2015 audit of our plan by EPS (Economic & Planning Systems, Inc.) this strategy was evaluated and validated. EPS agreed with our reasoning stating;

- 1. The Development Fee justification appears consistent with the standards of Government Code Section 66000. EDHCWD adequately justified the basis and amount of the current Development Fee through its Five Year Plan. EPS did not discover any material facts that would question the means by which EDHCWD justified the Development Fee.**

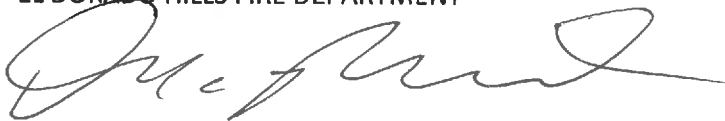
These above facts coupled with the acceptance and approval of our plan by both, my Board of Directors and the County Board of Supervisors, along with the letter of indemnification would seem to fully validate the expenditure.

I realize that the significant delay in reimbursement from our development fee account for this project is largely due to the current legal challenge related to these funds, but with the adoption of the letter of indemnification we are once again formally requesting the remainder of our development fee funds related to Station 84 which will close out this project.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT



Dave Roberts

*Fire Chief*

*Serving the Communities of El Dorado Hills, Rescue and Latrobe.*

cc: Joe Harn – El Dorado County Auditor-Controller  
Don Ashton – El Dorado County CAO  
John Hidahl – District I Supervisor  
Jessica Braddock – Finance Director El Dorado Hills Fire Department