



Development Impact Mitigation Fees Fire and Rescue Training Facility/Tower

Dear Ms. Hennike:

The Cameron Park Community Services District (District) is requesting \$450,000 of development impact mitigation funds, to build a fire and rescue training facility, at fire Station 89, located at 3200 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park.

Our Board of Directors has recognized that the growth and changing character of our District requires a dedicated training facility. The CSD Board has included the training facility within our planning documents and within our CIP since 2015, recognizing that appropriate training is essential to firefighter effectiveness and perhaps most importantly, firefighter safety. Our District has experienced extraordinary growth with residential, commercial, and multi-story/multi-family structures over the past thirty years, resulting in increased number and types of incidents, to which we must be prepared to respond (2015 Nexus Study). Additionally, we have grown from a single staffed station and a volunteer station, to two fully staffed fire stations, in order to keep up with the call volume demand. Our fire engines respond with ALS (paramedic) service, capable of providing all pre-hospital medical services with the exception of transport. We also provide ALS ambulance transport service through our participation in the Joint Powers Authority.

In 1990 the population of Cameron Park was less than 12,000. That number has grown to approximately 19,700 today. Our District resides in an urban-wildland interface with challenging topography and contains schools, day cares, assisted living, care facilities, medical centers, urgent care, motels, grocery stores, bars, and restaurants. In addition a major interstate freeway creates a high call volume with vehicle accidents, hazardous materials spills, and fires.

The Fire Department currently trains on public buildings and parking lots, at controlled burn sites and with other agencies, and wherever the opportunity exists. Additional training is secured off-site, by sending our personnel to the CAL FIRE Training Center in Lone, over 30 miles away, where actual training facilities exist, forcing the Fire Department to downstaff or incur additional wage cost for multiple personnel on duty. In addition, with the call volume increase, on-duty training time and quality of training is reduced and yet ongoing changes in law have significantly expanded the scope of firefighter training.

The fire and rescue training facility would be utilized to advance training in many areas including, but not limited to; large area search and rescue, fire control training, multistory and commercial structure firefighting tactics, firefighter survival and escape tactics, and high angle rescue training. The training facility will allow the fire department to engage in different scenarios that we would not have the opportunity to on similar private properties or businesses.

With the increase of population and commercial businesses, not only in Cameron Park but across El Dorado County, a training facility within our District would not only benefit the Cameron Park Fire Department and residents, but it would also benefit all Fire Districts within El Dorado County. Our Countywide system is based on emergency response mutual aid provided by all Districts and we would conduct multi-company training drills that would include all the Fire Districts, which would better prepare all firefighters for emergency situations within El Dorado County.

It is important that 100% of the cost of the District's new training facility be funded by the development impact mitigation fee. The District's new training facility is a new (added) fire facility that will add new capacity to the Fire Department and as such may be fully funded by the new fire impact fee revenue.

As you are aware, we remain committed to protecting the lives, properties, and environment of the people in Cameron Park. With the addition of a training facility, it will increase in the ability to perform more adequate and thorough training. All aspects would increase our successfulness in protecting, not just the citizens of Cameron Park, but all areas of El Dorado County as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Sherry Moranz
Assistant Chief
Cameron Park Fire Department