



COASTSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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June 25, 2021

VIA EMAIL: michelleweilmcc@gmail.com

MidCoast Community Council
ATTN: Chair Michelle Weil

RE: Fire Station 41

Dear Chair Weil:

Thank you for your comments at the May Fire Board meeting and your Board's letter of May 12, 2021 expressing continued concerns regarding the lighting at Station 41.

As you know, on July 12, 2017, the Coastside Fire Protection District (District) received approval from the San Mateo County Planning Commission for a Coastal Development Permit, Use Permit, Variance, Design Review Permit, Grading Permit and Subdivision, for the construction of Station 41 at 555 Obispo Road in the unincorporated area of El Granada.

In January 2021, MCC expressed concerns that the installed and operational lighting was excessively bright for the semi-rural location, degrades night skies, and impacts the visual quality of the area.

While the lighting at Station 41 was compliant with the permits issued for the Station's construction, the Chief, the District's architect, and staff met with County Planners to discuss your concerns and the Board thereafter authorized expenditure of funds to adjust the lighting system at the Station.

These adjustments were authorized to address your concerns while maintaining a level of lighting coverage needed to comply with industry accepted standard IESNA (Illuminated Engineering Society North America) recommendations for an operational fire station. This includes provisions for lighting in secure areas, first aid areas, and other areas deemed critical to the operation and safety of personnel. The adjustments included:

- The addition of dimming equipment for the five (5) walkway pole lights to dim their lighting by 30%.
- The addition of dimming equipment for the six (6) site pole lights to dim their lighting by 20%.

- Replacement of the 25-ft. tall site light pole along Avenue Alhambra with a 12 ft. tall site light pole.
- The addition of dimming equipment for the two (2) flagpole lights for manual option to dim or shut off at discretion of District staff.
- The addition of exterior lighting over-ride switches in the Captain's office.

All these adjustments have now been installed. In addition, the Chief has instructed that exterior building lights be turned off when the crews retire for the night.

None of these adjustments were required because the lighting, as initially installed, complied with the approved lighting plan for the Station. The adjustments were made to be a good neighbor and we are disappointed to hear that your Board still has concerns about the lighting at the Station. While you continue to express these concerns, the District is not able to further adjust lighting at the Station because doing so would cause the Station to be non-compliant with industry standards and hamper operations at Station 41 from which fire and emergency medical services are provided to the citizens and businesses we serve.

Respectfully,



Gary Burke
President of the Board of Directors
Coastside Fire Protection District