

**APPENDIX 5.8**

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**Fire Response Letter**

January 9,2008  
Job No. 0550.002

City of Porterville Fire Department  
Chief Mario Garcia  
40 West Cleveland Avenue  
Porterville, CA 93257

Regarding: Riverwalk Marketplace Phase II Draft EIR

Dear Chief Garcia,

Our firm is currently preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Riverwalk Marketplace Phase II Project located in the City of Porterville (please see the attached figures). The 21 acre project site is located on the southeast corner of Indiana Street and Springville Drive, immediately northeast of the State Route 190/State Route 65 interchange. The project as proposed would contain a total of up to 256,471 sq. ft. of retail distributed among five building pads. The proposed project includes a total of up to 215,000 sq. ft. associated with a Wal-Mart Supercenter. The Wal-Mart Supercenter is proposed to consist of a 184,129 square foot store (which is anticipated to include, among other things, 30,907 sq. ft. of grocery sales area and 10,373 sq. ft. of grocery support areas); a 10,655 square foot indoor garden center and seasonal sales area, 2,823 square feet of vestibule area at store entries; and a 14,216 sq. ft. outdoor garden center area. While this amounts to a total of only 211,823 square feet, the EIR will conservatively assume for the sake of evaluating impacts a total of up to 215,000 sq. ft., with the extra 3,177 sq. ft. assumed to be general retail merchandize area. The project is consistent with the existing General Plan and Zoning designations.

We are requesting information from the Porterville Fire Department on its ability to provide service to this project. Our interest is to provide as much detailed information concerning fire protection impacts in the Draft Environmental Impact Report as possible. In response to this objective, we would appreciate your input regarding the following questions:

- Please provide all pertinent data regarding the location of responsible Fire Stations, the staffing and equipment levels of each responsible station, and the distance and estimated response time to the project site, from each responsible fire station.
  - **Station #-1 minimum staffing is 4 persons type 1 Engine with a response time of 6 minutes distance of 2.15 miles. Station #-2 minimum staffing is 4 persons type 1 Engine with a response time of 8 minutes distance of 4.77 miles. Unknown staffing and time frame from future station #-3.**
  - The current information we have is that the proposed project would be served by the proposed station at Jaye St. and Worth Ave. Please verify and add any additional relevant information.
  - **The proposed new station is slated to be located on South Jaye between Hwy190 and Gibbons. At this time it is unknown when or where the station will be constructed.**

- Does the Porterville Fire Department delineate an acceptable emergency response distance/time for new development, in regards to fire services/medical response services? **NO**
  - The current information we have is a five minute response time for 80% of call received is acceptable. Please verify and add any additional relevant information. **This is acceptable.**
  
- What fire flow requirements would be applicable to the proposed project, under the Porterville Fire Department's guidelines?
  - The current information we have is 2,500 gpm for commercial developments. Please verify and add any additional relevant information. **This is incorrect. The City of Porterville has adopted the California Fire Code . The fire flow and spacing of hydrants can be found in the appendix.**
  
- Have flow tests been conducted in the project vicinity to determine available fire flow? If so, what fire flow is currently available near the project site? **Yes, the most current fire flow testing is as follows; Hydrant #-1398 located at 791 S. Indiana, testing was conducted on 12-05-08, the results were Static: 74, residual: 62, GPM: 2147. Hydrant #-1248 Ohio & Indiana, testing was conducted on 12-05-08, the results are as follows; Static: 70, Residual; 56, GPM; 2232.**
  
- What types of fire hydrants serve the project site, and are these hydrants sufficient to serve the fire protection needs of the proposed project? If there are no fire hydrants located within the project area, what type of hydrants would be needed, and what specifications for spacing hydrants apart does the Porterville Fire Department require? **Hydrants have been installed along the surface streets including: Vandalia, Springville Ave., and Indiana. Additional hydrants would be required in the project site areas. Spacing is no further than 300' apart.**
  
- Can the Porterville Fire Department provide adequate fire protection and emergency services to this proposed project?
  - The current information we have is that, with the addition of the fire stations proposed in the General Plan, adequate fire service will be available. Please verify and add any additional relevant information.
  
- What mechanisms exist to ensure fire district growth at a rate sufficient to accommodate new demand for fire protection services resulting from ongoing regional development? **The City's 30 year plan.**

- What is the current firefighter-to-population ratio and standard of the Porterville Fire Department in regards to fire services? .7
  - Please provide a map of the Porterville Fire Departments service boundary, including the service boundary for the Fire Stations that would respond to this particular project. **The area of service is within the city limits.**
  - Is the proposed project located within a High Fire Hazard Zone as delineated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection? If so, does the Porterville Fire Department have guidelines that will reduce the possibility of conflagrations occurring in such areas (e.g., reduction of fuel around residential units, residential setbacks from open-space, etc.)? **NO**
  - Would the Porterville Fire Department be considered the primary responder to fire/emergency services within the project area? **Yes**
    - The information we currently have is yes, the proposed project would be served by the Porterville Fire department. Please verify and add any additional relevant information.
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- Does the Porterville Fire Department impose a Development Impact Fee to new developments within its district boundaries, in regards to fire services? If so, please elaborate on what these Development Impact Fees are. **NO**
  - Please provide any more concerns or mitigation that the Porterville Fire Department would like to see within the Fire Services Section of the EIR for the project.
  - Are there any unique or potential issues you see affecting the project.

Thank you very much for your assistance in answering these questions and providing the requested information. As there are time constraints in preparing the draft EIR, we would appreciate your responses no later than **Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**. You may respond to me by mail, email (esharp@impactsociences), or fax (805) 437-1901. Furthermore, if you have any additional concerns which I have not addressed, or need additional project description information; please feel free to call me at 805-437-1900 ex. 225.

Sincerely,

IMPACT SCIENCES, INC.  
Evan Sharp  
Staff Planner