



South Coast
Air Quality Management District

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FAXED: JANUARY 5, 2010

January 5, 2010

Mr. Mark Hodnick
Facilities and Construction Manager
City of Indio - City Hall
100 Civic Center
Indio, CA 92202

**Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) for the
Proposed Indio Central Park & Public Safety Complex**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The following comments are meant as guidance for the Lead Agency and should be incorporated into the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Please provide the SCAQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the Final MND. The SCAQMD staff would be happy to work with the Lead Agency to address these issues and any other questions that may arise. Please contact Gordon Mize, Air Quality Specialist – CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3302, if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Nakamura".

Susan Nakamura
Planning Manager
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

Attachment

SN:EE:GM

RVC091217-02
Control Number

Siting of Sensitive Land Uses

- In Section 1.4 Project Location on page 2 of the Draft IS/MND, the lead agency describes commercial/industrial buildings located 375-500 feet south of the proposed project site that will include an aquatic area, a neighborhood park that includes a toddler play area, football, basketball and other outdoor recreation areas along with the public safety facilities proposed in the project description. In a telephone conversation between the lead agency and SCAQMD staff, the lead agency determined by a field visit that warehouse facilities were included in the commercial/industrial buildings described above. In addition the Draft IS/MND indicates that railroad tracks are located within 500 feet of the proposed project. Warehouse facilities and railroad operations are both sources of diesel emissions. The SCAQMD staff is concerned that this places people using the park facilities and staff working at the public safety complex within close proximity (e.g., within 500 feet) to these two sources.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL/EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) have published the “Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective (April 2005)” (Handbook), which is available at the following website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf> . This document includes recommendations for siting projects that include sensitive land uses (schools, residences, playgrounds, convalescent centers, nursing homes, long-term health care facilities, etc.) close to facilities that have diesel emissions that may lead to adverse health effects beyond those associated with regional air pollution in urban areas. The SCAQMD staff recommends that the lead agency consult the CARB Land Use Handbook while planning for the proposed public safety complex, aquatic center, neighborhood park and community sports complex.