



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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E-mailed: September 19, 2013
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September 19, 2013

Mr. David Prusch, Supervising Planner
County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department - Planning Division
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor
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Review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Bloomington Affordable Housing Project

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The following comment is intended to provide guidance to the lead agency and should be incorporated into the final CEQA document as appropriate.

The proposed project is classified as a sensitive land use¹ (i.e., residential housing) and is within ¼ mile of the Union Pacific (UP) Colton Railyard, Interstate 10 Freeway and an assortment of light industrial uses. As a result, the SCAQMD staff is concerned about the potential localized health risk impacts to the project site from these significant sources of diesel emissions. Based on a health risk assessment (HRA) completed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the UP Colton Railyard the estimated cancer risk at the proposed project site was as high as 250 in 1 million.² This elevated risk identified in the aforementioned HRA does not account for recent mitigation measures incorporated into the UP Colton Railyard. However, the UP Colton Railyard, Interstate 10 Freeway and surrounding light industrial uses remain a significant source of diesel emissions that impose potentially significant health risk impacts to nearby sensitive receptors, primarily from the south. Therefore, SCAQMD staff recommends that the lead agency include design features/mitigation measures in the final MND that minimize resident's exposure to these emissions. Specifically, the lead agency should consider a design configuration that provides a maximum setback for individual housing units, for example, place parking on the south side of the project site and place individual housing units and tot lots on the north end of the site furthest from both the railyard and freeway.


Please provide the SCAQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the final MND. Further, staff is available to work with the lead agency to address these issues and any other questions regarding air quality that may

¹ California Air Resources Board. April 2005. "Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective." Accessed at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/landuse.htm>

²The CARB UP Colton Railyard HRA can be found at: http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/up_col_hra.pdf

arise. Please contact Dan Garcia, Air Quality Specialist CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3304, if you have any questions regarding the enclosed comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian V. MacMillan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'I' and 'M'.

Ian MacMillan

Program Supervisor, CEQA Inter-Governmental Review
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

Attachment

IM:DG

SBC130821-01
Control Number