

Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR  
December 10, 2002

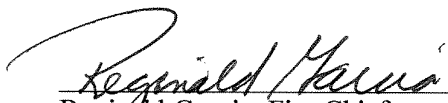
To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council  
From: Weldon Kucker, City Manager  
Subject: APPROVE CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR THE HILL FIRE STATION

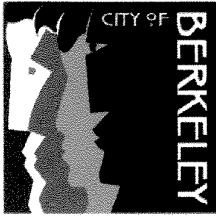
- The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.
- The City Manager takes no position concerning the recommendations of the Commission.

CONTACT PERSON

Juliann Beckendorf, Chair, Fire Safety Commission, 510-524-1854

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reginald Garcia, Fire Chief



Fire Safety Commission

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To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From: Fire Safety Commission

Subject: APPROVE CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR THE HILL FIRE STATION

RECOMMENDATION

The Fire Safety Commission asks that the Mayor and Council approve the contracts and agreements with the East Bay Regional Parks District and East Bay Municipal Utilities District so that the Hill Fire Station can be built.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Voters approved funding for the Hill Fire Station in 1992 through the passage of Measure G.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The existing Fire Station 7 at Shasta Road no longer meets the operational needs of the Fire Department. The station has only one apparatus bay, and therefore can only house one piece of firefighting equipment. It lacks sufficient space to house additional personnel during periods of peak fire danger, and its small lot precludes expansion. The station is located at a dangerous intersection and blind curve, allowing very slow response exiting to go up the hill. Even if Station 7 were brought up to current standards and seismic safety, the station still would not improve fire protection.

The Hill Fire Station proposed at 3000 Shasta Road is in an optimal location in terms of minimizing response times to all parts of the hill response district. There is enough space to build a fire station with room for additional apparatus and personnel. This particular location was chosen because it will have less impact on the neighborhood than other feasible sites.

BACKGROUND

The Fire Safety Commission, meeting on December 4, 2002, unanimously passed a resolution asking the Mayor and Council to act immediately to protect Berkeley's homes, families and

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neighborhoods by voting to approve the contracts and agreements with East Bay Regional Park District and East Bay Municipal Utilities District so that the Hill Fire Station can be built.

The Commission stresses that the Hill Fire Station project has been going on for over ten years, delaying vital and desperately needed medical and fire protection to Berkeley residents. In the last three years, there have been at least twenty public meetings to study every aspect of the issue.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

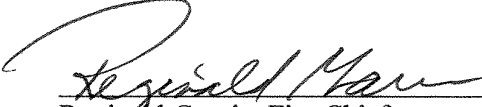
The existing Fire Station 7 at Shasta Road no longer meets the operational needs of the Berkeley Fire Department. It is small, in poor condition and has not been seismically retrofitted. In addition, due to its location on a narrow, winding street, a fire engine leaving the station on a call must back up to complete a left turn from the station. This slows response times, and is not a desirable situation.

The Fire Department is proposing a new, replacement fire station that allows for more direct response to calls, and that permits the flexibility of housing additional staff during high fire days. The proposed Hill Fire Station is in a most desirable location for minimizing response times throughout the hill response district. There is enough space to build a fire station with room for additional apparatus and personnel, as needed. In addition, this particular location was chosen because it will have less impact on the neighborhood than other feasible sites.

CONTACT PERSON

Juliann Beckendorf, Chair, Fire Safety Commission 510-524-1854

Approved:

  
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Reginald Garcia, Fire Chief