

DATA REQUEST #23
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

BACKGROUND

Commission staff has communicated with military representatives and believes that the Niland project is of some concern to the military in relationship to their training route airspace. The SPPE filing discusses air navigation related to local airports, including the Chocolate Mountains Naval Gunnery Range. However, the application has no discussion of military airspace or actual conversations held with the military.

DATA REQUEST

- 23a. Please provide a letter or record of conversation with the Imperial County Planning Department documenting compatibility of the proposed Niland project, with its 60-foot tall exhaust stacks with the military training route airspace designation.
- 23b. Provide a letter or record of conversation with the Navel Air System Command (NAVAIR) staff regarding concerns, if any, with the proposed project.

DATA RESPONSE

- 23a. On April 10, 2006, an email was sent to Mr. Richard Cabanilla with the Imperial County Planning Department, and a response was received on April 11, 2006 (see attachment TRAFFIC-1, Richard Cabanilla email). Mr. Cabanilla indicated that because there are no airports or airstrips within the vicinity of the Project, the two 60-foot towers (stacks) associated with the Project would not require review by the Imperial County Airport Land Use Commission. Mr. Cabanilla also provided the names and contact numbers for several military organizations who may have interest in the Project by virtue of their use of the military training route airspace located near the Project. These contacts are outlined below in Data Response 23b, along with the NAVAIR contact information requested by staff.
- 23b. On April 11, 2006, URS spoke with Mr. Anthony Parisi, P.E., Head of Sustainability at the Navel Air System Command (NAVAIR) at Point Mugu Naval Air Station, California, regarding the Project (see attachment TRAFFIC-2, Anthony Parisi Record of Conversation). Mr. Parisi indicated that he was aware of the Project by virtue of his communications with Mr. Jim Adams at the CEC, and that he had been provided a copy of the SPPE. He did not express any concerns regarding the Project to URS, but acknowledged that he was still reviewing the materials, and had committed to Mr. Adams that he would respond to the CEC by April 21, 2006. He also indicated that he had distributed the SPPE materials to a group of "military stakeholders" for their review. Mr. Parisi did not specifically name the entities that made up the stakeholder group, but stated that it consisted of Air Force, Marine and Navy entities within California who routinely made use of the Chocolate Mountains Naval Gunnery Range

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(CMNGR). No other communication between URS and Mr. Parisi has subsequently taken place.

On April 10, 2006, URS spoke with Ms. Jacqueline Caron at the March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California, regarding the Project (see attachment TRAFFIC-3, Jacqueline Caron email). She acknowledged some awareness of the Project, but did not indicate how she had been made aware. During the discussion, URS provided a brief explanation of the Project, its location relative to the CMNGR, and a description of the major Project components, in particular the height of the two 60-foot exhaust stacks. Ms. Caron stated that as long as the Project components were less than 200 feet in height, that they would not likely cause a problem. She also questioned whether the Project would generate any exhaust products that might be an issue, and URS explained that the Project was working closely with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District to design and construct a project that incorporated the best available control technologies to ensure that there would be no visual impediments to the operations at the CMNGR. In a follow-up email, URS provided to Ms. Caron (attached) a copy of the Project location on an aerial photo overview to demonstrate its location relative to the Town of Niland and the CMNGR. A copy of the Project's engineering drawing was also supplied, which provided the UTM coordinates for the major equipment components. In a follow-up response received by URS on April 13, 2006, Ms. Caron forwarded a copy of an email from Major Jeffrey Minton with the 452 AMW in which he expressed no objections to the Project (see attachment TRAFFIC-3, Jacqueline Caron email).

On April 12, 2006, URS spoke with Mr. Thomas Manfredi, Community Planner, at the Yuma Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Arizona, regarding the Project (see attachment TRAFFIC-4, Thomas Manfredi email). Mr. Manfredi stated that he was not aware of the Project, therefore during the discussion URS provided a brief explanation of the Project, including its location relative to the CMNGR. URS also explained that the Project would not generate any visual impediments to the operations at the CMNGR. Mr. Manfredi indicated that he knew Mr. Parisi at NAVAIR, and URS explained that Mr. Parisi had been contacted by the CEC and was provided a copy of the SPPE. In a follow-up email (see attachment TRAFFIC-4, Thomas Manfredi email), URS provided to Mr. Manfredi copies of the same aforementioned figures that were provided to Ms. Caron at March ARB. URS also provided Mr. Manfredi with the link to the CEC's Web page on the Project in the event that he wanted to review any additional materials. In follow-up emails between URS and Mr. Manfredi concluding on April 17, 2006, Mr. Manfredi asked several follow-up questions sent by his Range Manager, to which URS was responsive (see attachment TRAFFIC-4, Thomas Manfredi email).