

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 3/22/04
Department Name: Fire
Department No.: 031
Agenda Date: 5/4/04
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 35mins
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: John M. Scherrei
Fire Chief

STAFF CONTACT: Tom Franklin, Division Chief/Fire Marshal
x5525

SUBJECT: Goleta Water District Addition Appeal
Apn #061-051-032

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:
Deny the appeal of Kevin D. Walsh (Goleta Water District) of the decision made by the Fire Sprinkler Review Board on March 3, 2004 declining an exemption from fire sprinkler installation at proposed project located at 4699 Hollister Avenue (APN 061-051-032). This proposed project is in the Second Supervisorial District.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with actions required by law or by routine business necessity.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

At the regular hearing of the Santa Barbara Fire Sprinkler Review Board on March 3, 2004, the Administrator declined an appeal for fire sprinkler exemption. Staff has attached a report detailing the approved project, the issues surrounding the current appeal.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The appeal was filed pursuant to Section 15.84 and Section 15.85 of Article IV of Chapter 15 of the County Fire Prevention Ordinances, which state that the decision of the Fire Sprinkler Review Board may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors within ten days after the Fire Sprinkler Review Board's actions.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board shall please forward a copy of the Minute Order to Fire Department, attention Rose Pueschel.

Concurrence:

N/A

Attachments: Staff Report, Site Map



Memorandum

Date: April 29, 2004

To: Honorable Joe Centeno, Board of Supervisors Chair, Hon. Supervisors Joni Gray, Susan Rose, Naomi Schwartz, Gail Marshall
Santa Barbara County

From: Tom Franklin, Division Chief/Fire Marshal
Santa Barbara County Fire Department

Subject: Staff Report: Goleta Water District Addition Appeal (March 3, 2004 Fire Sprinkler Review Board)

CC:

On November 13, 2003, Goleta Water District filed a Fire Protection Certificate (FPC) with County Fire for review of a 1,984 square foot addition to their offices at 4699 Hollister Avenue. According to plans submitted by the architect, this addition would create a new building of 10,948 square feet (over twice the size of the 5,000 square foot requirement for automatic fire sprinklers).

As required by Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 15 (please see attached), Section 15-81, County Fire required Goleta Water to sprinkler the entire structure. As stated in Chapter 15, "automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be installed and maintained in: (b) Existing buildings or structures for which applicants for modification are officially filed with the county public works department, building and development division and which are modified to increase the existing floor area to total five thousand square feet or more."

On Wednesday, March 3, 2004, the Fire Sprinkler Review Board met to hear an appeal of the Goleta Water District. The District appealed the fire sprinkler requirement based on their belief that fire sprinklers cause damage when activated and that existing fire hydrants and a fire alarm system at the site would provide adequate fire protection for the structure. Additionally, Goleta Water claimed the district was fiscally unable to fund an automatic fire sprinkler system.

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The decision of the appeal board was to deny Goleta Water District’s appeal. The denial was based on the fact that the County Code does not allow financial hardship or other required fire protection systems to displace an automatic fire sprinkler system. Additionally, the Appeal Board found that because this addition created a 10,948 square foot building, automatic fire sprinklers were essential to the safety of the building, its occupants and contents.’

Automatic fire sprinklers are nationally recognized to provide superior fire protection to life and property. It is a rare occurrence for automatic fire sprinklers to activate improperly. It is a fact that when automatic fire sprinklers are activated during a fire, that 98% of fires are kept to their incipient state and the catastrophic damage that could have occurred from a larger fire is avoided.

