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By Jocelyn Gonzalez -Thies at 8:09 am, Apr 04, 2024

From: [nick schwartz](#)
To: [pbscommissions](#)
Subject: case no: U 2023-002 and B_ 2023-001 Schwartz comment
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 11:17:10 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the proposed coastal development plan and building project associated with the construction of the new fire station in the village of Albion Ca.

My name is Nick Schwartz and I am a property owner and Volunteer firefighter in the Albion Little River Fire Protection District. I have been a volunteer for over 16 years in Albion, Comptche, and Anderson Valley and have seen first hand how our communities have been under served in both the medical and fire protection fields.

We have historically been understaffed and underfunded when it comes to supporting our volunteer departments. Today we face, more than ever, a growing threat of impending environmental change as our population density has increased and our forests have grown more dense and developed in the urban wildland interface. We have a huge influx in tourism and a growing population that is extremely underserved by medical resources; as the coast is often burdened with having only one or two staffed ambulances at any given time and the response time can often reach over an hour.

Every summer and fall the threat of impending wildfire grows stronger and the areas which experience extreme fire behavior and fire storms spread closer to the coast. We must prepare for what may be a future of severe and unpredictable fire behavior.

By building a new and state of the art fire station, we will be rising to meet the demands and inevitable needs of a growing community and changing landscape. We used to have a sleepy winter when the local businesses would shut down for a few months and tourists would leave the area for the winter. Those times are long gone and in fact, our population is growing; young families are beginning to move to our area again and put down roots. Additionally, much of our population is reaching retirement age, and the need for expedient medical services is increasing.

By having a new fire station, centrally located, with easy access to Hwy 1, we will be able to serve as an epicenter not only for our district but for surrounding districts as well, and provide resources for our communities in times of need. We desperately need somewhere to house more than one fire fighting and rescue apparatus. We also need somewhere that we can provide visible reassurance and magnetic draw to our community in order to facilitate a positive volunteer recruitment effort. We need a facility to house emergency medical service providers and "on duty" responders. We need a command post in times of emergency that can provide communication and support for our community. And most of all, we need to come out of the dark ages and prepare for what our county needs most: A sustainable community with a firm grasp on the contemporary standards of fire protection, and that can support a growing tourist economy.

Please consider the approval of the proposal to develop our new fire station.

Sincerely,
Nick Schwartz
707 357-5975

