



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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Ms. Judith Von Klug, Redevelopment Manager
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Calimesa Redevelopment Agency
908 Park Avenue
Calimesa, CA 92320

Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft Program EIR) for the Proposed Redevelopment Plan for the Calimesa Redevelopment Project No. 2

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The following comments are meant as guidance for the Lead Agency and should be incorporated into the Final CEQA document.

In the project description, the lead agency proposes the redevelopment of an approximate area totaling 1,143 acres. Included in this proposal is the possibility of construction of residential properties that could be located near the Interstate 10 Freeway. Recent research indicates that there is an increased health risk for those living within close proximity to a freeway. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has published the "Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective (April 2005)." This document is intended to serve as a general reference guide for evaluating and reducing air pollution impacts associated with new projects that go through the land use decision-making process. The SCAQMD recommends that the lead agency review the Handbook guidelines while completing its plan and consider the recommendations that apply to the siting of sensitive receptors. The Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective is available at the following website:
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/landuse.htm> .

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092.5, please provide the AQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the Final Program EIR. The AQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to address these issues and any other air quality questions that may arise. Please contact Gordon Mize, Air Quality Specialist – CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3302, if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian V. MacMillan".

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

IM:GM

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