



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, Interim City Manager
DATE: June 7, 2022
SUBJECT: Draft Letter to Riverside County Board of Supervisors

Background and Analysis:

At the May 17, 2022, City Council meeting, staff gave a report on Riverside County's Good Neighbor Policy. Direction was given to return with a staff report for further discussion.

Riverside County adopted a Good Neighbor Policy for Logistics and Warehouse/Distribution Uses on November 19, 2019. The development and operational criteria set forth in the policy is intended to be implemented to supplement project-level mitigation measures, in order to further reduce impacts related to logistics and warehousing development and operations.

Furthermore, the policy provides the opportunity for County staff to monitor the individual conditions of approval. Specific categories within the policy include addressing the potential quality of life issues from the initial design process to construction, and through operations. However, it should be noted that the policy guidelines only apply to those new projects submitted after the policy approval date and are intended to be implemented during the land use review process on a district-by-district basis.

Prior to that policy adoption a logistics center commonly referred to as San Gorgonio Crossing (Gateway) was approved by the County and is now located on Cherry Valley Blvd., adjacent to the I-10 freeway and very near the City's boundary lines. Because the project was approved prior to the County's adoption of the Good Neighbor Policy, it does not adhere to the terms set out in the policy.

With that said, City staff is recommending that City Council sign the attached draft letter to the County Board of Supervisors outlining the negative impacts to the community of the new logistics center and admonishing the Board for allowing a development to be

constructed without appropriate quality of life mitigation efforts, similar to those outlined in the Board's Good Neighbor Policy (Attachment A).

The draft letter includes specific language cited from the project staff report presented to the Board of Supervisors, including that "The project will also be set back from the street and landscaped in such a manner as to be visually unobtrusive, thereby espousing the rural character of the surrounding environment...". The report goes on to say, "...the project's setback from the mountain ridge and the street will protect the scenic ridgeline and the landscape, providing continued natural visual relief to the nearby communities." It is very apparent now to the residents in the Pass area that neither of these statements are accurate.

Finally, should the letter be approved tonight, staff recommends that all five City Council Members sign the letter showing unified support of the admonishment to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and reinforcing the Board's lack of representation to their constituents throughout Beaumont and the surrounding communities.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost to prepare this staff report is \$350.

Recommended Action:

Discuss the draft letter and provide direction.

Attachments:

- A. Draft letter to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors