



## **Southern Inyo Fire Protection District**

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**To: Stephanie Lauer**  
Senior Director of Permitting, Lands, and GIS  
174 Power Global  
400 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 1400  
Irvine, CA 92618

**November 20, 2025**

Re: Bonanza Peak Solar Project and SIFPD

Ms. Lauer:

The Southern Inyo Fire Protection District is in receipt of your project presentation regarding the Bonanza Peak Solar Project. We appreciate that 174 Power Global has listened to the concerns of community members and decided to forgo the battery storage element of the project. This amended project proposal addresses some of the initial concerns SIFPD had about the project.

During the construction period, we anticipate an increase in demand on SIFPD's services due to the Bonanza Peak Solar Project. Your representatives stated there would be up to 450 workers employed on site for 18 months, making it likely the largest job site in Inyo County. These workers would be driving in and out of the site and engaging in construction work with heavy equipment. These activities inevitably entail some number of injuries and necessity for emergency response. Per OSHA, construction sites on average experience 2.4 non-fatal workplace injuries per 100 workers per year,<sup>1</sup> indicating that with 450 workers for 1.5 years, we might expect 16.2 injuries at the job site. While not all of these will necessitate emergency response, it's a clear indicator that there will be increased demands on SIFPD's services.

Additionally, there will be significantly increased vehicular traffic on Old Spanish Trail. The 450 workers will drive into and out of the site daily, increasing passenger vehicle traffic substantially. Additionally there will be gravel trucks and trucks hauling solar panels and other heavy truck traffic on Old Spanish Trail. Coupled with the high number of large RVs being towed on that road as a primary access route to Dumont Dunes, this increases the likelihood of vehicular accidents warranting SIFPD response. Old Spanish Trail is in poor shape and is not very wide, posing challenges with speeding large RVs and gravel trucks both trying to occupy the same narrow road.

Thus we believe that the construction period will entail a significant increase in demand on SIFPD's services. During the operational phase, we expect demand on our services to return to closer to baseline, as the site will not have much activity on a day-to-day basis. The odd vehicular accident or transformer fire may require our services but, at least as foreseeable at this time, the main increased draw on SIFPD's services will be during the construction phase.

We appreciate that 174 Power Global has publicly stated their intention to support SIFPD as a part of their project, including support for a new fire station in Charleston View. As you're aware, SIFPD has been awarded \$1.5 million from a federal appropriation, along with \$500,000 in Inyo County matching funds, in order to fund new fire station construction in both Tecopa and Charleston View. It is likely that, given inflation and the general cost of doing business in Southeast Inyo County, these funds will not be sufficient to build two fire stations.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.enr.com/articles/57549-construction-nonfatal-injury-illness-rate-dips-as-cases-rise-slightly>

Having a fire station in Charleston View is essential for SIFPD to provide emergency response services to the Bonanza Peak Solar Project. It would also be a quality of life improvement for residents of Charleston View – not only would they have increased fire protection services, but they would be able to get homeowners' insurance and mortgages, which have been difficult to obtain without a nearby fire station.

SIFPD faces many challenges, and the lack of a fire station in Charleston View is only one of them. Much of our equipment is out of date, passed down from other fire departments. If we are going to respond to incidents at a large-scale construction site, it is necessary for us to do so with modern, functional equipment. We have a list of needs enumerated below.

Additionally, SIFPD faces challenges with staffing. We have a small, dedicated group of volunteers that provides emergency response across a 1,200 square mile area. Our EMT services have been carried out by a single volunteer who is functionally on call 24-7, though we recently had a new volunteer pass his national registry test and is in the process of becoming our second EMT. Nonetheless, we still face challenges with adequate staffing, and need support in order to potentially hire full-time certified staff. New fire stations are important, but we also need people to staff them.

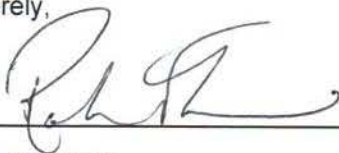
One final item to note is regarding call-out pay. Our volunteers get small stipends when they respond to a call, called call-out pay. Call-out pay is not financial remuneration for work, but is meant to offset the costs to volunteers for their time when they respond to an emergency. Our volunteers do this work because they love our community and they feel a calling to serve their neighbors. In recognition that our volunteers would be responding to emergencies at Bonanza Peak Solar for a for-profit company that isn't from our community, we will be requesting reimbursement from 174 Power Global for increased volunteer call-out pay for emergency response to incidents at Bonanza Peak Solar Project.

Our requests are as follows:

- Financial support for construction of the Charleston View fire station, up to \$1,000,000.
- Facilitating a donation of appropriate land for the Charleston View fire station.
- Purchasing essential equipment at a total of roughly \$1,000,000, including:
  - 2x 2000-gallon Water Tender fire truck w/poly or stainless tank (\$150k)
  - 2x Type 4 fire engine with foam dispenser and 750-1000 gallon tank (\$225k)
  - Ambulance (\$150k)
  - 4x SCBAs w/ 6x 45-minute tanks (\$10k)
  - Portable light plant (\$30k)
  - Tower at fire station for repeater and warning siren (\$20k)
  - Jaws of life (\$10k)
- Ongoing financial support for SIFPD staffing and operations (\$200,000/year).
- Triple call-out pay for volunteers responding to Bonanza Peak Solar incidents (as needed, ~\$1k per incident).

We stand ready for further discussion with your company, Inyo County Planning, and Inyo County Supervisor Will Waderton about how 174 Power Global can support our community through SIFPD.

Sincerely,



*Robin Flinchum*

*SIFPD Board Chairperson*

**Southern Inyo Fire Protection District**

*Working together to keep the heart of the Mojave safe!*