

Southeastern San Diego Community Planning Group

May 13, 2024

City of San Diego Planning Department

Fairmount Fire Station site proposal

Dear City of San Diego Planning Department:

Thank you for your commitment to equity and transparency for all of the communities in the city of San Diego. We join our neighbors in the Webster Community Council in opposition to the proposed site for the New Fairmount Fire Station. We join the Webster council due to the destruction of the Chollas Creek Watershed open space that sits on sacred Kumeyaay land. Reasons include:

1. **Land use and planning:** The proposed fire station contradicts the Mid-City community plan for Chollas Creek. Building a fire station at this location in the chollas creek watershed when other locations are feasible sends a negative message to underserved residents about community equity and environmental justice. Approximately 1.28 acres of a pristine canyon will forever be changed by the fire station footprint and brush cleaning activities to protect the structure.
2. **Recreation:** The site of the proposed new station is within the Chollas Creek Watershed in an underserved, park-deficient area where more parks and green spaces are needed. The city cannot achieve its Parks Master Plan goals in this area by building a fire station in what should be open space with trailhead and/or pocket park that nearby residents have requested.
3. **Hydrology and Water Quality:** The recent storms and flooding have been a devastating reminder that further development of precious open space in the Chollas Creek Watershed is not in the best interest of the communities adjacent to the Watershed. The removal of native vegetation, addition of impervious surfaces, and grading will again change the environment's ability to absorb rain, further affecting the Creek and causing downstream flooding.

The Southeaster Planning group and Webster Community Council want to understand why other locations identified for this project, that are located in already developed areas of the community with acceptable emergency response times, are not being considered. With this fire station project set to become the most expensive in San Diego History, we look forward to seeing those other proposed locations also go through an EIR process, so the best location for the community is selected.

Sincerely,

Southeastern San Diego Community Planning Group