



September 18, 2009

Mr. Jim Whitty
Oregon Department of Transportation
123 N.W. Flanders Street
Portland, Oregon 97209-4012

Dear Mr. Whitty:

As you are aware, there have been a number of citizen concerns regarding the proposed I-205 solar project adjacent West Linn. Residents of the Barrington Heights community, in particular, have been interested in the potential impacts on the nearby property. In addition to communicating with both ODOT and City of West Linn staff, neighborhood association leaders have contacted our Fire Prevention division. Among their concerns is the perception that the solar panels would present an increased fire danger.

Recently, TVF&R Deputy Fire Marshal Ed Bonollo participated in one of the community meetings designed to gather input and assuage concerns about the project. Deputy Bonollo shared the Fire District's opinion that developed property typically represents lower fire risk than undeveloped property.

Further, we believe that the solar project and the bordering trail would create fire breaks that currently do not exist on the property. Finally, the gravel access road to the site could actually improve our ability to respond to an incident in that area.

In addition to participating in the community meetings and corresponding with concerned citizens, we have conducted site surveys of several Barrington Heights homes to evaluate their defensible space and share fire safety information. We have also been able to update our wildland urban interface map to remove nearly twenty lots which were previously listed as high risk.

We appreciate the opportunity to be part of the public dialogue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael R. Duyck'.

Michael R. Duyck
Deputy Fire Chief

cc: Chris Jordan, West Linn City Manager
Allison Hamilton, ODOT Solar Project Manager
Lynn Averbeck, ODOT Solar Project Team

Administration Office

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