

2006/07

Project: Residence Area Development
Unit: Ocotillo Wells
Estimate: 207,000
Type of Project: Health and Safety

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will construct two additional resident pads. It will include the installation of all utilities, including an additional 200 amps of power, sewer, water, telephone and propane. Two shade structures 24' X 65' with 4" of compacted AB to match existing structures will be constructed. Solar hot water panels will be installed on the roofs of each structure. The additional mobile pads will provide much needed space for permanent, seasonal, and/or volunteer employees.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Ocotillo Wells SVRA had over 1,000,000 visitors in 2004. A single three-day holiday weekend can produce as many as 250,000 visitors. Public Safety staff responded to 3,278 emergency calls that year. In order for the district to continue to provide this high level of service it must recruit and maintain qualified personnel for a number of public safety, maintenance, and administration positions which are currently vacant. The only way to attract candidates for these positions is to provide State housing. When asked, candidates cited the lack of state housing as the main reason for their decision not to apply. Housing in Ocotillo Wells area is sub standard and housing in nearby Borrego Springs is not affordable or available. Many volunteers and camp hosts have their own motor homes/trailers and need a place to connect to utilities. Enforcement and/or emergency response teams from other districts providing additional support to Ocotillo Wells on busy holiday weekends during the peak use season may also use these additional pads.

Currently public safety and maintenance staff use two 24'x 60' mobile homes located on existing pads. Two smaller pads accommodate small travel trailers for seasonal staff.

Alternatives: Take no action and continue to have little to no success in recruiting qualified help to fill vacant positions even while offering them at a higher classification level.

This project is consistent with the General Plan for Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area.