



NEWS RELEASE

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DATE: *November 9, 2015*
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County Fire breaks ground on new Fire Station 32 in Needles

Community members and dignitaries attended the groundbreaking ceremony today in Needles for the new San Bernardino County Fire Station 32. The ceremony kicked off with a welcome from Division Chief Jon Chamberlin and an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by the Rev. Canon Janet Hurley, Vicar of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church.

The new 6,300 square foot station will help San Bernardino County firefighters continue to proudly serve the City of Needles, the unincorporated region of the county, including Park Moabi, the Colorado River recreation area, and the Interstate 40 and Highway 95 corridors. The current Fire Station 31, built in 1953 at 633 Front Street in Needles is no longer adequate or large enough to support the needs of County Fire.

“The community deserves to have a state-of-the-art station to serve their needs,” said First District Supervisor Robert A. Lovingood. “Our Countywide Vision seeks to improve public safety and promote wellness for our residents and visitors at every corner of the county.”

The new fire station will include an apparatus bay for housing two engines, sleep rooms, restrooms, an exercise room, lobby, kitchen and dining areas. There will also be a 600 square foot equipment storage building constructed adjacent to the main station. The construction meets the current state title 24 energy standards, and the rock scape provides for California’s drought concerns with no need for irrigation.

“The City of Needles and San Bernardino County Fire remain committed to providing sustainable fire, rescue and emergency medical services to its citizens and visitors,” stated Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. “The new fire station allows room for future growth of fire protection services to the Needles area. We are honored and proud to serve Needles and its surrounding area.”

The project budget is \$3.6 million with funding from a Community Development Block Grant and the County’s discretionary general fund. Construction begins Nov. 12 and the anticipated completion date is in November 2016.

In 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved STK Architecture Inc. to design a fire station in Spring Valley Lake and use the design template for future fire stations at a cost savings to taxpayers. The contractor on the Needles project is D. Webb Incorporated of Yucca Valley.

About 1,100 calls for service occur in the Needles area annually. San Bernardino County Fire has supervised fire protection services for the City of Needles since 1977.

Courtesy photos of the groundbreaking ceremony can be located at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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