



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

Seventh District

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For Immediate Release

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City-wide Rolling Brown-outs To Begin February 6th

Public Safety May Be At Risk

Councilmember Marti Emerald is sensitive to the need to balance the City budget but is concerned rolling brown-outs could compromise public safety.

Although no fire stations will be closed, rolling “brown outs” (temporary engine closures) at 8 of the City’s 47 fire stations mean fire crews will be rotated among other stations and the use of available equipment will be reduced based upon daily needs. This plan will save the City about \$11.5 million in overtime expenses but it may take longer for first responders to arrive at an emergency.

Already 22 fire stations short of San Diego’s minimum needs, this means the City will be 35% under the national standard for what is considered adequate coverage for a city the size of San Diego.

To view the Fire Station Master Plan:

http://docs.sandiego.gov/councilcomm_agendas_attach/2009/PSNS_090304-2a.pdf

“These engine closures represent an additional 13 percent reduction in available fire crews and equipment. We are patching the budget deficit by cutting public safety services. We should all be concerned about this,” said Councilmember Emerald.

As Chair of the San Diego City Council’s Public Safety and Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee, Emerald will monitor how the rolling brown-outs are affecting neighborhoods with monthly updates from San Diego Fire-Rescue Department at PS&NS meetings.

To view the Fire Engine Rotating Brown-Out Plan:

www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7/news/newsreleases

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