

Inter-Office Memorandum

5/28/08

To: Mary Roberts, Community Development Director
From: Jim Parrott, Fire Chief
Subject: Possible RDA funding toward fire station relocation

The Pinole Fire Department has operated a fire station in "old town" since the inception of the city. However, the department identified long ago that the original location would no longer be optimal once a valley fire station were built. Now that the outer valley enjoys improved fire and rescue service from Station #74 (opened August 3rd, 2002), the potential for improving service and possibly increasing revenue by relocating the main station is apparent.

While the location of Station #73 provides reasonably good coverage for the balance of the city our current and future general fund challenges might suggest serious consideration of the following relocation. Moving station #73 to the area closer to Interstate 80 and Appian Way or farther south down San Pablo Avenue would still serve Pinole well and may enable co-mingled funding from the county. The unincorporated areas adjacent to Pinole could receive greatly improved response and service. In turn, Pinole could justify an ongoing increase in our annual contract to provide fire service to those areas. Possible funding or co-funding of a fire station with Contra Costa County could be justifiable if it retained excellent service for Pinole and ensured significant contract revenue. The current downtown fire station could be re-utilized for city purposes (ie: community center or?) or could be leased as a revenue generator to a third party.

The likely cost to build a similar "core" fire station with offices would likely be in the \$5-6 million range. Depending on the potential value to the county area, county RDA funding might match city funding. The fire department is also aware that the county Sheriff's department had been seeking a substation facility in our general area, potentially adding further cooperative funding sources or facility trades.