



Draft Environmental Assessment

W. Bushnell Fire Station #22 Coleman Fire Station #33

Sumter County Fire Rescue, Sumter County, Florida

ARRA-SCG Grant #EMW-2009-FC-05940R

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FEMA

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Draft Environmental Assessment
W. Bushnell Fire Station #22
and
Coleman Fire Station #33

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and

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Sumter County Fire Rescue (SCFR) was awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - Assistance to Firefighters Station Construction Grant (ARRA – SCG) # **EMW-2009-FC-05940R** to provide funding for the construction of three (3) new fire stations: W. Bushnell Fire Station #22, Coleman Fire Station #33, and Wildwood Fire Station # 31. Wildwood Station #31 was found to qualify for the categorical exclusion and therefore is not discussed herein.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is required to consider potential environmental impacts before funding or approving actions and projects. The purpose of this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the W. Bushnell Fire Station #22 and the Coleman Fire Station #33. FEMA will use the findings in this EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). This EA document was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations to implement NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA's regulations implementing NEPA (44 CFR Part 10).

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

2.1 Purpose

The ARRA is an economic stimulus package that was designed to jumpstart the U.S. economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges nationally. Funds received under this Act are intended to support these goals. The purpose of the FY 2009 ARRA-SCG is to create or save jobs in recession-hit areas, and to achieve AFG goals of firefighter safety and improved response capability/capacity based on need through the construction, renovation or modification of fire stations.

2.2 Need

SCFR is responsible for providing fire suppression, non-transport basic life support emergency medical services, special operations response, fire code enforcement, fire investigation, and public education to a population of approximately 50,000 in unincorporated Sumter County (including 9,275 inmates) and five (5) municipalities; Bushnell, Center Hill, Coleman, Webster, and Wildwood. The Department provides emergency response to unincorporated areas and municipalities from eleven fire stations in the County. Through mutual and automatic aid agreements with The Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD), SCFR may respond to an additional 47,439 Sumter County residents, living within The Villages '55 and older' retirement community.

Sumter County is historically underserved in terms of public fire and rescue response services and therefore SCFR is an ideal ARRA-SCG grant recipient. Prior to 2002, Sumter

County primarily received fire protection from ten (10) independent all-volunteer fire departments. SCFR was formed in 2002 following unification of the 10 volunteer departments, and now operates through a combination of volunteer “Reserve Firefighters”, which comprise ±80% of the uniformed personnel, and paid “Career Firefighters”, which comprise ±20% of the uniformed personnel. While significant improvements have been made since unification, additional infrastructure improvements will be necessary in order for SCFR to become comparable to neighboring departments.

Currently, none of the SCFR stations are staffed 24 hours per day, due in part to insufficient facilities for around-the-clock staffing. The three (3) busiest SCFR stations are staffed daily from 7am-7pm; however, the remaining eight (8) Satellite Stations are staffed during these hours only on a rotational basis. Currently, SCFR relies exclusively on Reserve Firefighters responding from their homes for calls dispatched to all stations between the hours of 7pm-7am and around-the-clock for all unstaffed Satellite Stations. This results in drastically increased response times during non-staffed hours, as evidenced by a Fire Rescue Strategic Planning document prepared for SCFR which estimates that only 52% of calls received in 2008 achieved the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 4-minute maximum “drive time” standard for career departments (Matrix, 2010). While Sumter County is planning to fund 24 hour per day / 7 day per week staffing of the busiest stations beginning in fiscal year 2010/2011, many of the existing fire stations will require renovation and/or improvements to meet the necessary code and space requirements before they can accommodate around-the-clock staffing. The actions proposed herein are necessary to satisfy this need for adequate fire service facilities.

The existing need for emergency service and facility improvement within the underserved area of Sumter County is further compounded by substantial projected growth of the County. Sumter County is home to The Villages, which is one of the world’s largest gated retirement communities. While the call-volume associated with this busy retirement community is primarily addressed by The Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD), neighboring portions of Sumter County that are reliant upon SCFR have experienced tremendous residential, commercial, and industrial growth in support of and in response to this thriving retirement community, resulting in increased SCFR call-volume. Further, recent Fire Study Population Projections estimate that the City of Bushnell, which will be served by the proposed W. Bushnell Fire Station #22, will increase in population by 16% by year 2015, due in part to expanding commercial businesses and food service establishments associated with the I-75 interchange at State Road 48. The City of Wildwood, which will be served by the proposed Coleman Fire Station #33, is expected to double in population by year 2015. The actions proposed herein are essential to provide the necessary around-the-clock emergency response to business, residences, and industry located throughout this growing County.

Further need for SCFR facility improvement is demonstrated through the high volume of traffic which passes through this County on a regular basis. It is estimated that 70%-80% of all highway traffic into and out of Florida travels through Sumter County, as this County is home to the intersection of the Florida Turnpike (a.k.a. “Florida’s Main Street”) and Interstate 75. Furthermore, SCFR provides primary response to incidents along a substantial length of both of these major highways, which bisect the County. The actions proposed herein are essential so that around-the-clock response can be provided, and emergency response services can be improved along these busy interstate highways systems.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

NEPA requires the investigation and evaluation of reasonable project alternatives, including impacts to the natural and human environment as part of the planning process. This EA addresses two alternatives for each proposed fire station: the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative.

3.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

3.1.1 Proposed Action Alternative

The proposed action alternative will result in construction of W. Bushnell Fire Station #22 on a property that was acquired from the City of Bushnell in 2009. Located in the western portion of the City of Bushnell, this site presently contains infrastructure associated with the City of Bushnell public water supply and is slated for construction of a 750,000 gallon steel water tank that will be operated and maintained by the City of Bushnell. The proposed fire station will be constructed on the eastern portion of this site, which was selected based on its strategic location in a drastically underserved portion of Sumter County, its practicality for accommodating multiple public needs (water supply and fire station), and the ability to avoid impacts to sensitive environmental and historical resources at this location. Area risk analysis identifies the area surrounding the proposed fire station location as underserved due to travel distance from the existing nearby fire station locations (Matrix, 2010). The proposed new station would comprise approximately 7,430 sq. ft., complete with 3 pull-through bays and ample space for 24 hr. occupancy by a crew of 6 Firefighters, with kitchen, dormitory, combination day room / training area, report writing work station, and an equipment decontamination / cleaning area. The construction type would be engineered steel frame with split faced concrete block. The site plan is enclosed as Appendix A.

This proposed SCFR facility was strategically sited to provide improved response within the western half of the City of Bushnell, to which vehicular access is frequently restricted from the existing nearest fire station (Station #11) due to an active railroad crossing. Each day, this railroad crossing experiences an average of 28 to 32 freight train trips, resulting in frequent delayed emergency response times. Additionally, this proposed fire station is ideally situated in close proximity to the expanding commercial businesses and food service establishments associated with the I-75 interchange at State Road 48, within an area that is expected to experience 16% population growth in the next five (5) years (Matrix, 2010). The proposed station will replace Station #11, which does not presently meet the applicable codes and standards for around-the-clock staffing and is the second busiest station in Sumter County. The existing Station #11 would continue to serve as a Reserve Firefighter station, and will supplement the proposed W. Bushnell Fire Station #22. Construction of W. Bushnell Fire Station #22 would drastically reduce emergency response time within the south-central portion of Sumter County by facilitating 24 hour firefighter staffing within the second busiest response area of the County.

3.1.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative would result in no construction of a new fire station in this location. Because the nearest existing fire station cannot accommodate around-the-clock firefighter staffing, emergency response times within West Bushnell and the surrounding

areas would remain as they currently exist and would continue to be influenced by vehicular access interruptions associated with the freight rail schedule and delays associated with Reserve Firefighters responding from their homes during unstaffed hours. Response times are expected to further increase with the predicted population growth and associated increased call-volume. The no action alternative results in a lower level of overall public safety than the proposed action alternative.

3.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

3.2.1 Proposed Action Alternative

The proposed action alternative would result in construction of a new Coleman Fire Station #33 facility on a property that was acquired by Sumter County in July 2006 and was recently annexed into the City of Wildwood. A temporary fire station consisting of a modular building is presently located on this site, but does not meet code requirements or provide sufficient space for around-the-clock staffing. The new station would comprise approximately 7,430 sq. ft., complete with 3 pull-through bays and ample space for 24 hr. occupancy by a crew of 6 Firefighters, with kitchen, dormitory, combination day room / training area, report writing work station, and an equipment decontamination / cleaning area. The construction type would be engineered steel frame with split faced concrete block. The site plan is enclosed as Appendix A.

The site of this proposed fire station was selected based its strategic location in an underserved and rapidly developing portion of Sumter County and the ability to avoid impacts to sensitive environmental and historical resources at this location. Within the primary zone of this proposed fire station is the City of Coleman, which is a historic municipality dating back to the late 1800's. Three (3) Developments of Regional Impact (DRI's) have been approved surrounding the City of Coleman, all of which will be dependent upon fire and rescue response from this facility. The City of Wildwood, which is additionally served by the proposed Coleman Fire Station #33, is expected to double in population by year 2015 (Matrix, 2010). The proposed Coleman Fire Station #33 will alleviate call-volume presently experienced by the busiest station in the County (Wildwood - Station #31), and will improve response time to incidents located on I-75 and Florida's Turnpike, based on its close proximity to these highways.

3.2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative would result in no construction of a new fire station in this location. Because the existing fire station in this location cannot accommodate around-the-clock firefighter staffing, emergency response times within the response areas (City of Coleman and City of Wildwood) will remain as they currently exist. Response times would be expected to drastically increase with the predicted substantial population growth and associated increased call-volume. The no action alternative results in a lower level of overall public safety than the proposed action alternative.

3.3 Alternative Actions Dismissed

As discussed in Section 2.2, Sumter County is presently underserved in terms of public fire and rescue response services. As discussed in Section 2.2, approximately one-half of the

calls received by SCFR in 2008 exceeded the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 4-minute maximum “drive time” standard for career departments (Matrix, 2010). This is largely due to the heavy reliance upon Reserve Firefighters responding from their homes to the fire station and then to the emergency incident during non-staffed station hours. Sumter County is planning to fund 24 hour per day / 7 day per week staffing of the busiest stations beginning in fiscal year 2010/2011 in an effort to improve response times. However, many of the existing fire stations, including those discussed herein, will require renovation and/or improvements to meet the necessary code and space requirements before they can accommodate around-the-clock staffing. The proposed action alternatives, discussed in Sections 3.1.1 and 3.2.1 above involves construction of new fire stations to serve the cities of Bushnell, Wildwood, Coleman, and surrounding areas. Other alternatives for improving fire and rescue response in this underserved County were considered and dismissed, as discussed below.

One alternative to improve emergency response time within Sumter County involves hiring additional firefighters. However, because the existing fire stations are not equipped to accommodate around-the-clock staffing, it would still be necessary for firefighters to respond from their homes to the fire station and then to the emergency incident during non-staffed hours. Therefore, this alternative would only reduce response times if the newly hired firefighters live in close proximity to the fire stations from which they will be responding. It is neither practical nor feasible to selectively hire new firefighters based on the proximity of their homes to the fire station, as there is no guarantee that new staff living in close proximity to a fire station would remain in that domicile for the duration of their employment, and the expense of training new staff precludes frequent staff turnover. There are also ethical consequences associated with requiring new staff to live within such close proximity to the fire station. Further, this approach was not determined to constitute a long-term solution, as the anticipated future growth of the County and associated increase in call volume is expected to ultimately negate any short term improvement in response time associated with firefighters responding from homes within closer proximity to the existing stations. This alternative was dismissed, as it does not constitute a long-term, sustainable approach to improving fire and rescue response within Sumter County.

Another alternative involved installing additional modular buildings at the Coleman site and adding modular structures to the existing Station #11 (which presently services the W. Bushnell area), rather than constructing new facilities as proposed in Sections 3.1.1 and 3.2.1. While installation of single-story modular structures would constitute a temporary solution to accommodate overnight staffing of both fire stations, limited space and the need for additional infrastructure accommodations (such as equipment storage and kitchens, workstations, and training areas) would limit the accommodations to only a few firefighters. Conversely, the proposed action alternative would result in construction of a two-story structure of greater square-footage that would accommodate as many as 6 firefighters. It is likely that both the existing Station #33 and Station #11 would “outgrow” temporary modular structures within the next 5-10 years, based on anticipated future population growth, associated increased call volume, and the need for additional staffing. Furthermore, adding modular structures to Station #11 would not resolve the need for improved response times within the western half of the City of Bushnell, to which vehicular access is frequently restricted from the existing Station #11 due to an active railroad crossing. For these reasons, the alternative of installing additional modular structures at both sites was not determined to constitute a long-term sustainable approach to improving fire and rescue response

considering the population growth that is anticipated to occur within these particular areas of Sumter County, and was therefore dismissed.

4.0 GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS

4.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

The W. Bushnell Fire Station #22 site comprises 2.5 acres located in Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 22 East, and is located within the limits of the City of Bushnell. Graphics depicting the location and existing conditions of proposed W. Bushnell Fire Station #22 are included as Appendix B. Photographs of the existing site conditions are included as Appendix C.

The proposed project site presently contains infrastructure associated with City of Bushnell public water supply. Chain-link fencing completely surrounds the utility infrastructure area. Vegetation is primarily limited to regularly mowed bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*), with dog fennel (*Eupatorium* sp.), and oak saplings (*Quercus* sp.) also present.

4.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

The Coleman Fire Station #33 site comprises 1.0 acre located in Section 30, Township 19 South, Range 23 East, and is located within the limits of the City of Wildwood. Graphics depicting the existing conditions of proposed Coleman Fire Station #33 are included as Appendix B. Photographs of the existing site conditions are included as Appendix C.

The eastern one-half of the proposed Coleman Fire Station #33 is presently developed as a temporary fire station. Structures include a modular building elevated on concrete blocks, three (3) vehicle bays which provide cover for emergency vehicles and equipment, and a storage shed. An earthen mound which overlies a septic tank and drainfield is located in the northern portion of the property. The remainder of the eastern portion of the site is overlain with limerock gravel for parking. The western one-half of the property consists of a remnant forested tract. Canopy species include live oak (*Quercus laurifolia*) and cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*). Understory and groundcover species primarily include saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), beggar tics (*Bidens alba*), beauty berry (*Callicarpa americana*), bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*), Caesar weed (*Urena lobata*), rattlebox (*Crotalaria* sp.), air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), grapevine (*Vitis* sp.), catbriar (*Smilax* sp.), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).

5.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENTS & POTENTIAL IMPACTS SUMMARY

This section describes potential environmental consequences of the proposed alternative through comparing with potentially affected environmental components. The proposed alternative is also evaluated against existing environmental documentation and anticipated future projects to determine the potential for cumulative impacts. The potential for significant environmental consequences is evaluated herein using the context and intensity considerations as defined in CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1508.27).

Table 1 summarizes the potential impacts of the proposed alternative with mitigation measures to minimize those impacts, where appropriate, in relation to W. Bushnell Fire Station #22. Table 2 presents this same information in relation to Coleman Fire Station #33.

Table 1: Affected Environment and Impacts Summary (W. Bushnell Fire Station #22)

Affected Environment	Impacts	Mitigation
Geology & Soils	The proposed action alternative would disturb the shallow soils and surficial geology during site preparation work. However, grading will be limited and effects to geology and soils would be minor and temporary in nature.	Erosion and sedimentation control BMP's will be implemented to prevent construction-related impacts to onsite and offsite soils. NPDES and ERP permits will require implementation of pollution prevention techniques and sediment / erosion control BMP's.
Air Quality	Air emissions would likely occur during construction of the proposed action alternative. Such emissions would likely have minor & temporary effects on air quality during equipment use (vehicle exhaust) and soil grading activities (fugitive dust).	The contractor will minimize air pollution throughout construction through dust suppression, minimizing running times of fuel burning equipment, and proper engine maintenance.
Waters of the U.S. Including Wetlands	No waters of the U.S or wetlands were identified onsite therefore no Section 404 CWA permit will be required. No impacts anticipated.	N/A
Floodplain	The project is located in Zone "C", an area outside a mapped floodplain, as shown on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map panel 1202960 150 B. No impacts anticipated.	N/A
Water Quality	Water quality impacts will be avoided and minimized through stormwater management design and implementation of BMP's.	The stormwater management system will be constructed and implemented in accordance with federal, state and local regulations to avoid and minimize development related impacts.
Threatened and Endangered Species	No Federally protected species were identified onsite therefore ESA Section 7 consultation is not required. Burrows of the gopher tortoise, a state-listed "Threatened" species, were identified along the southern property boundaries.	Gopher tortoise burrows will be avoided by a minimum distance of 25 feet as required by FFWCC regulations to demonstrate avoidance and to prevent the need for permitting and relocation.
Cultural & Historic Resources	Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer concluded that the proposed action alternative would have no affect on Cultural & Historic Resources	N/A
Socioeconomic Resources	The proposed action will improve public safety by increasing fire and rescue protection and improving emergency response times. The project has been sited in an area of developed future land use and zoning classification. The utility systems can accommodate the project and traffic impacts are not anticipated.	N/A
E.O. 12898	The SCFR is committed to protecting the lives	N/A

-Environmental Justice	and property of all citizens equally, regardless of socioeconomic status or race. Therefore, all socioeconomic classes stand to benefit from the proposed action and no adverse impacts will occur.	
Noise	Temporary short-term noise impacts are anticipated during the construction period. Fire equipment and station alarms during an emergency can range from approximately 95 to 120 dB. Intermittent elevated noise would be sustained for extremely short durations, during emergency response.	To reduce noise levels, construction activities will take place during normal daylight business hours. Post-construction impacts cannot be entirely mitigated due to NFPA 1901 and State Fire Marshal requirements for minimum sound-warning requirements for fire equipment when responding to an emergency. To reduce impacts, such alarms will only sound when necessary for response & testing.
Cumulative Impacts	The proposed project is consistent with foreseeable future action within the area and therefore no adverse impacts are anticipated. Further, the development was designed to be compliant with many aspects of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification system.	N/A

Table 2: Affected Environment and Impacts Summary (Coleman Fire Station #33)

Affected Environment	Impacts	Mitigation
Geology & Soils	The proposed action alternative would disturb the shallow soils and surficial geology during site preparation work. However, grading will be limited and effects to geology and soils would be minor and temporary in nature.	Erosion and sedimentation control BMP's will be implemented to prevent construction-related impacts to onsite and offsite soils. NPDES and ERP permits will require implementation of pollution prevention techniques and sediment / erosion control BMP's.
Air Quality	Air emissions would likely occur during construction of the proposed action alternative. Such emissions would likely have minor & temporary effects on air quality during equipment use (vehicle exhaust) and soil grading activities (fugitive dust).	The contractor will minimize air pollution throughout construction through dust suppression, minimizing running times of fuel burning equipment, and proper engine maintenance.
Waters of the U.S. Including Wetlands	No waters of the U.S or wetlands were identified onsite therefore no Section 404 CWA permit will be required. No impacts anticipated.	N/A
Floodplain	The project is located in Zone "C", an area outside a mapped floodplain, as shown on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map panel 1202960 150 B. No floodplain impacts will occur.	N/A
Water Quality	An Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) will be issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), approving	The stormwater management system will be constructed and implemented as permitted by the SWFWMD.

	the stormwater management plan. An ERP application has been submitted and is pending approval.	including stormwater pollution prevention measures to mitigate water quality impacts resulting from development, as required by NPDES permitting.
Threatened and Endangered Species	No State or Federally protected species were identified onsite therefore ESA Section 7 consultation is not required.	N/A
Cultural & Historic Resources	Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer concluded that the proposed action alternative would have no affect on Cultural & Historic Resources	N/A
Socioeconomic Resources	The proposed action will improve public safety by increasing fire and rescue protection and improving emergency response times. The project has been sited in an area of developed future land use and zoning classification. The utility systems can accommodate the project and traffic impacts are not anticipated.	N/A
E.O. 12898 -Environmental Justice	The SCFR is committed to protecting the lives and property of all citizens equally, regardless of socioeconomic status or race. Therefore, all socioeconomic classes stand to benefit from the proposed action and no adverse impacts will occur.	N/A
Noise	Temporary short-term noise impacts are anticipated during the construction period. Fire equipment and station alarms during an emergency can range from approximately 95 to 120 dB. Intermittent elevated noise would be sustained for extremely short durations, during emergency response.	To reduce noise levels, construction activities will take place during normal daylight business hours. Post-construction impacts cannot be entirely mitigated due to NFPA 1901 and State Fire Marshal requirements for minimum sound-warning requirements for fire equipment when responding to an emergency. To reduce impacts, such alarms will only sound when necessary for response & testing.
Cumulative Impacts	The proposed project is consistent with foreseeable future action within the area and therefore no adverse impacts are anticipated. Further, the development was designed to be compliant with many aspects of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification system.	N/A

6.0 GEOLOGY & SOILS

According to Report of Investigation 98: *Geology of Sumter County, Florida*, both proposed project sites are located within the Western Valley of the Central or Mid-Peninsular physiographic zone (Campbell, 1989). This large north-south trending, irregularly shaped low area is bounded on the west by the Brooksville Ridge and on the east by the Sumter and Lake Uplands.

The Geologic Map of the State of Florida reveals that both project sites are underlain by Ocala Limestone of the Upper Eocene Series (Scott et.al., 2001). The Ocala Limestone consists of nearly pure limestones and occasional dolostones. This is a white to gray, fossiliferous, moldic limestone, which varies from packstone to grindstone. The Floridan Aquifer system, which is the primary source of potable water within the County, found within the Eocene age Ocala Group and is considered to be unconfined throughout the majority of Sumter County. The top of the Floridan aquifer system is less than 50 feet below the land surface for the majority of the County.

6.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

The Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) *Soils Survey of Sumter County, Florida* was accessed as part of the literature review component of the ecological assessment. The NRCS soil survey maps the project site as being underlain by one (1) soil type (Appendix B – Figure 2). Sparr fine sand, bouldery subsurface (33) is a nearly level to gently sloping and somewhat poorly drained soil. The soil has a high water table within 20 to 40 inches of the surface for 1 month to 4 months. The available water capacity is low in the surface and subsurface layers and medium in the subsoil. Permeability is rapid in the surface and subsurface layers and slow or moderately slow in the subsoil. The Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists (FAESS) does not consider Sparr fine sand to be a hydric soil type (FAESS, 1995).

The proposed action alternative was reviewed for potential impacts on prime farmlands in accordance with Section 1541 of the *Farmland Protection Policy Act* (FPPA). The proposed project site is presently zoned for public utilities. The USDA excludes land within urban development areas or used for water storage from the provisions FPPA per *Title 7 Part 658.2*. As such, the proposed action alternative will not impact prime farmland.

The proposed action alternative would disturb shallow soils and surficial geology during site preparation work. As the site is relatively flat, grading will be limited and effects to geology and soils would be minor and temporary in nature. Further, erosion and sedimentation control BMP's will be implemented in accordance with state and federal requirements to prevent construction-related impacts to onsite and offsite soils and water quality. Under the no-action alternative, no construction activities would occur to impact geology or soils.

6.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

The Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) *Soils Survey of Sumter County, Florida* was accessed as part of the literature review component of the ecological assessment. The NRCS soil survey maps the project site as being underlain by one (1) soil type (Appendix B - Figure 7). The Pits – Dumps complex (51) soil classification consists of pits from which soil material and limestone or shell has been removed and dumps where these materials have been piled. Most areas mapped as Pits-Dumps complex are no longer actively mined. Most have been abandoned and are not suitable for crops or trees. The Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists (FAESS) does not consider the Pits – Dumps complex to be a hydric soil type (FAESS, 1995).

The proposed action alternative was reviewed for potential impacts on prime farmlands in accordance with Section 1541 of the *Farmland Protection Policy Act* (FPPA). The proposed

project site is presently as industrial. The USDA excludes land within urban development areas or used for water storage from the provisions FFPA per *Title 7 Part 658.2*. As such, the proposed action alternative will not impact prime farmland. Under the no action alternative, no construction activities would take place and there likewise would be no impacts to prime farmland.

The proposed action alternative would disturb shallow soils and surficial geology during site preparation work. As the site is relatively flat, grading will be limited and effects to geology and soils would be minor and temporary in nature. Erosion and sedimentation control BMP's will be implemented in accordance with state and federal requirements to prevent construction-related impacts to onsite and offsite soils and water quality. Under the no-action alternative, no construction activities would occur to impact geology or soils.

7.0 AIR QUALITY

The *Clean Air Act* requires EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment (*40 CFR part 50*). The Clean Air Act establishes two types of national air quality standards: 1) *Primary standards* set limits to protect public health, including the health of "sensitive" populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly, and 2) *Secondary standards* set limits to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. NAAQS are established for six "criteria" pollutants, including: ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and lead (Pb).

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Division of Air Resource Management website indicates that there is not presently an Air Quality Monitoring Site within Sumter County. The nearest Air Quality Monitoring Site to both project sites is located in neighboring Marion County, within the City of Ocala (AIRS # 083-0003 Ocala – YMCA). Information obtained from the FDEP website indicates that this area has achieved attainment with the 8-hour ozone standard. The Air Quality Index (AQI) for this station, as reported on May 14, 2010, has a score of 32 (FDEP, 2010). The AQI scale varies from 0 to 500; a score of 0 presents the lowest level of health concern and a score of 500 presents the highest level of health concern. Scores of 0-50 fall within the "Good" category, as defined by the EPA. By definition, no health impacts are expected when air quality is in this range.

As a construction project, both proposed actions will require earth moving procedures, such as excavation, cutting, filling, and placing soil and/or engineered fill. These procedures could create fugitive dust. Construction best management practices would be used to minimize dust. Construction would require use of various, but limited pieces of heavy equipment such as haul trucks, backhoes, bulldozers, and scrapers. Any effects to air quality will be the result of construction activity and will be minimal, short in duration, temporary, and of local impact. Emissions would most likely originate with vehicle emissions and fugitive dust, which would be similar to returning the property to mechanized cultivation. Implementing best management practices to control dust will mitigate this concern. Even so, the emissions would be temporarily increased and no long-term air quality degradation is anticipated. The emissions would effectively cease upon completion of the construction project. Air quality impacts associated with the proposed actions are expected to be minor and temporary. Under

the no action alternative, no construction activities would take place and there would be no potential impacts to air emissions and/or air quality.

8.0 WATER RESOURCES

8.1 Wetlands and Waters of the United States

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has regulatory jurisdiction over dredge and fill activities within Waters of the United States, including wetlands, as authorized by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Executive Order (EO) 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requires Federal agencies to take action to minimize the destruction or modification of wetlands, by considering both direct and indirect impacts to wetlands that may result from Federally funded actions.

8.1.1 West Bushnell Fire Station #22

Field reconnaissance performed by Modica & Associates, Inc. wetland scientists on May 3, 2010 revealed no state or federally jurisdictional wetland or surface waters on the project site. Therefore, no action under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required to facilitate the proposed action. This finding is corroborated by the absence of hydric soils mapped underlying the project sites (see Sections 6.1 and 6.2). Further, the National Wetlands Inventory Map reveals no mapped jurisdictional features onsite (Appendix B - Figures 3 and 3A).

The proposed action alternative will not impact wetlands or Waters of the U.S., as such features are absent from the project site. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there likewise would be no impacts to wetlands.

8.1.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

The National Wetlands Inventory Map indicates the presence of a wetland onsite (Appendix B – Figures 8 and 8A). However, field reconnaissance performed by Modica & Associates, Inc. wetland scientists on November 23, 2009 revealed no state or federally jurisdictional wetland or surface waters on the project site. This finding is corroborated by the absence of hydric soils mapped underlying the project sites (see Sections 6.1 and 6.2). Further, correspondence received from South West Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) regulatory staff via email on May 20, 2010 confirms that no jurisdictional wetland areas are presently located onsite (Appendix D).

Review of historic aerial imagery indicates that an isolated wetland was historically present in the approximate location indicated on the NWI map. Review of successive aerial image photographs suggests that the system became increasingly dry from the time of the earliest imagery reviewed (year 1951) until the time of the 2004 aerial photograph (Appendix E). This reduction in the hydrologic regime likely was related to resource extraction operations which were historically conducted on the adjoining property to the north, as indicated on the USGS Topographic Quadrangle (Figure 6). Furthermore, recent site inspections conducted by Modica & Associates, Inc. staff revealed that fill material may have been recently (within the last several years) deposited upon the eastern portion of the subject property and the adjoining property to the east, as the topography appears to be higher than the conditions

depicted on the USGS Topographic Quadrangle. Indeed, recently deposited fill material is apparent in these areas on the 2006 aerial imagery. Wetland characteristics are not evident onsite in the 2004 historic imagery and therefore it does not appear that wetlands were impacted by the placement of this fill material. Regardless, it is highly unlikely that the non-navigable, isolated wetland that was historically located on this property would have been federally jurisdictional under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. No action under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required to facilitate the proposed action.

The proposed action alternative will not impact wetlands or Waters of the U.S., as such features are absent from the project site. No action under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required to facilitate the proposed action. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there likewise would be no impacts to wetlands.

8.2 Floodplains

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires Federal agencies to minimize occupancy and modifications of floodplains. The order specifically prohibits Federal agencies from funding construction in 100-year floodplain (or 500-year floodplain for critical facility) unless there are no practical alternatives.

8.2.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

According to FEMA Flood Rate Insurance Map Panel 1202960 150 B, the project is located in Zone “C”, an area outside a mapped floodplain. Therefore, the proposed action alternative will not result in floodplain impacts. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there likewise would be no impacts to floodplains.

8.2.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

According to FEMA Flood Rate Insurance Map Panel 1202960 125 B, the project is located in Zone “C”, an area outside a mapped floodplain. Therefore, the proposed action alternative will not result in floodplain impacts. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there likewise would be no impacts to floodplains.

8.3 Water Quality

Surface and groundwater quality impacts related to site development will be avoided and minimized through stormwater management engineering. Surface water management design for both project sites will undergo review by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) as part of the Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) process. Local stormwater management review and approval is also required for both sites. In addition, both construction sites will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction permit, which will require implementation of appropriate pollution prevention techniques to minimize erosion and sedimentation and properly manage stormwater. The following sections provide an overview of the surface water management design, as well as the permitting status for each site.

8.3.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

The total project site comprises ± 2.50 -acres; however, the construction proposed under this project is contained on the eastern side of the property thereby limiting the drainage basin area to 1.46-ac. The total impervious surface area will be 0.70-ac. Stormwater runoff from the drainage basin will be routed to a dry retention pond by overland flow, sheet flow, and a piped storm sewer conveyance system. The dry pond has been designed to treat and attenuate stormwater runoff generated by the site improvements prior to discharge offsite. The required treatment volume is recovered by groundwater infiltration through the pond bottom and sides within 72-hours following a storm event. Stormwater runoff in excess of the total retention volume will exit the pond through a concrete outfall weir. The stormwater management design limits post development discharge for the 25 year, 24 hour storm to the pre-development rate of discharge.

The City of Bushnell has approved the proposed site plan, including Engineering Review (Appendix F). Stormwater engineering is presently undergoing review by the SWFWMD as part of the ERP process. The NPDES permit will be obtained by the construction contractor prior to initiation of construction activities.

8.3.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

The pre-development drainage basin area is ± 1.00 -acres. The total impervious surface area will be 0.56-ac. Stormwater runoff from the drainage basin will be routed to a dry retention pond by overland flow, sheet flow, and a piped storm sewer conveyance system. The dry pond has been designed to treat and attenuate stormwater runoff generated by the site improvements prior to discharge offsite. The required treatment volume is recovered by groundwater infiltration through the pond bottom and sides within 72-hours following a storm event. Stormwater runoff in excess of the total retention volume will exit the pond through a concrete outfall weir. The stormwater management design limits post development discharge for the 25 year, 24 hour storm to the pre-development rate of discharge.

Stormwater engineering is still undergoing review by the SWFWMD as part of the ERP process and by the City of Wildwood. The NPDES permit will be obtained by the construction contractor prior to initiation of construction activities.

Surface and groundwater quality impacts related to development of both project sites will be avoided and minimized through stormwater management engineering and implementation of sediment and erosion control BMP's. Therefore, the proposed action alternative will not result in water quality impacts. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there likewise would be no impacts to water quality.

9.0 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Native or naturalized vegetation, wildlife, and the habitats in which they occur are collectively referred to as biological resources. Section 7 of the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) requires Federal agencies to ensure that any actions authorized, funded or carried out by those agencies are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat.

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) is a non-profit organization administered by Florida State University which collects and maintains a comprehensive database of the biological resources of Florida. The FNAI online tracking list reports that three (3) federally protected species of wildlife have been documented within Sumter County (FNAI, 2010). These species are listed below:

- T — Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*)
- T — Florida scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)
- E — Wood stork (*Mycteria americana*)

9.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

A Threatened and Endangered Species survey of the proposed project site was conducted by Modica & Associates, Inc. wildlife biologists on May 3, 2010. None of the federally listed species documented by FNAI as having the potential for occurrence in Sumter County were identified during the survey. However, one (1) state listed species of wildlife was identified within the project boundaries. The gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) is listed as “Threatened” by the FFWCC. Three (3) potentially occupied gopher tortoise burrows were identified within the wildlife survey transects, which covered approximately 100% of suitable habitat onsite and within 25 feet of the property boundary. Survey transects and tortoise burrow locations are depicted on Appendix B - Figure 5.

In accordance with the FFWCC *Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines* (April 2009), no permit is required for activities which occur more than 25 feet from a gopher tortoise burrow entrance. All three identified burrows are either located offsite or very close to the property boundary. The proposed project design will avoid gopher tortoise impacts by limiting the footprint of construction to an area outside of the 25 foot burrow protection radius. Additionally, silt fencing will be erected at the perimeter of the development footprint to prevent individuals of this species from entering the construction site. These efforts to avoid gopher tortoise burrow impacts are depicted on the enclosed Site Plan (Appendix A). Because avoidance can be demonstrated, no regulatory permitting or relocation action will be required to address this species.

A consultation request was submitted to the FFWCC regional biologist on May 11, 2010 (Appendix G). Consultation received from the FFWCC on May 26, 2010 confirms that no permitting or relocation will be required, based on the current site conditions (Appendix G). The section of the FFWCC *Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines* which addresses gopher tortoise burrow avoidance is likewise enclosed within Appendix G.

Construction of the proposed action alternative will have no adverse affect on federally or state-listed habitat or threatened or endangered species. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there would likewise be no potential impacts to biological resources.

9.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

A Threatened and Endangered Species survey of the proposed project site was conducted by Modica & Associates, Inc. wildlife biologists on November 23, 2009. No federally listed

species documented by FNAI as having the potential for occurrence in Sumter County were identified onsite. Likewise, no state-listed species of wildlife were documented onsite.

Construction of the proposed action alternative will have no adverse affect on federally or state-listed habitat or threatened or endangered species. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there would likewise be no potential impacts to biological resources.

10.0 CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

Consideration of impacts to cultural resources is mandated under Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)*, as amended and implemented by *36 CFR Part 800*. The regulations require identifying significant cultural resources that may be impacted by the alternatives. Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic sites, structures, districts, artifacts, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered important to a culture, subculture, or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reasons. Cultural resources determined to be potentially significant under NHPA are subject to protection from adverse impacts resulting from an undertaking.

The Florida Department of Historic Resources, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted as part of the NOI process. The SHPO responded in a letter dated May 14, 2010, indicating that both project sites were reviewed in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended in 1992, *36 CFR 800: Protection of Historic Properties*. This correspondence further indicates that review of the Florida Master Site File found no significant archaeological or historical resources recorded in the vicinity of both project sites, and that the proposed projects are not expected to affect historic properties (Appendix H).

Tribal consultation has been initiated by FEMA and is presently underway by the Cultural Resources Section.

11.0 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES

11.1 Land Use & Zoning

11.1.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

The W. Bushnell Fire Station #22 site is located within the City of Bushnell. It has a zoning and future land use classification of “Public”, which provides for municipal, county and other governmental uses, plus essential public services or religious organizations. Construction of a fire station complies with the allowed uses of the existing zoning category, and therefore the proposed action alternative will not impact land use & zoning. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there would likewise be no potential impacts to land use & zoning.

11.1.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

The Coleman Fire Station #33 site is located within the City of Wildwood. It has a future land use and zoning classification of “Industrial”, which provides for pubic buildings,

facilities and other governmental uses, among other uses (Jason McHugh, City of Wildwood, Personal Communication, May 19, 2010). The proposed action complies with the allowed uses of the existing zoning category and future land uses, and therefore the proposed action alternative will not impact land use & zoning. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there would likewise be no potential impacts to land use & zoning.

11.2 Traffic

Florida Statutes, Chapter 163, Growth Management Section requires that public roadway facilities needed to support developments must be available "concurrent" with the impact of such development and further requires local government to maintain an adopted standard of level of services on the public roadways for safe and orderly flow of vehicular traffic.

11.2.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

The proposed project consists of construction of a fire station that will be staffed by a maximum of six (6) individuals. In addition to commuting, traffic will consist of emergency call responses. The proposed project was approved by the City of Bushnell without the need to undergo a traffic study or to address traffic impacts, due to the fact that the proposed use is not expected to result in sufficient additional trips to adversely impact traffic in the area. The proposed action alternative is therefore not expected to adversely impact traffic. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there would likewise be no potential impacts to traffic.

11.2.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

The proposed project is presently undergoing review by the City of Wildwood. Preliminary comments have been received from the City of Wildwood; a traffic study is not being required, as the proposed use will not result in a sufficient traffic increase to warrant this level of study. Further, it should be noted that the proposed project site currently consists of a fire station. While the proposed infrastructure improvements will somewhat increase trips to and from the site due to increased staffing, the area is subject to traffic associated with this use in the present condition. The proposed action alternative is not expected to adversely impact traffic. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and there would likewise be no potential impacts to traffic.

11.3 Public Health and Safety

Both proposed actions will significantly improve public health and safety services within Sumter County. As previously discussed, SCFR presently relies exclusively on Reserve Firefighters responding from their homes for all stations between the hours of 7pm-7am and around-the-clock for the unstaffed Satellite Stations, resulting in increased response times. While Sumter County is planning to fund 24 hour per day / 7 days per week staffing of the busiest stations beginning in fiscal year 2010 / 2011, the proposed new fire stations are necessary to accommodate around-the-clock staffing as the existing stations are not adequately sized or equipped.

A Fire Rescue Strategic Planning document prepared for SCFR estimates that only 52% of calls received in 2008 achieved the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 4-minute maximum “drive time” standard for career departments (Matrix, 2010). Following construction of the proposed stations, this is expected to increase to 65%. Only 30.72% of calls in 2008 achieved the 60-second “reflex time”. Around-the-clock staffing of the proposed fire stations is expected to reduce average response times by approximately 3 minutes, due to improved “reflex time”.

The proposed actions will significantly improve response time within the targeted areas of Bushnell and Wildwood, resulting in public health and safety benefits. Under the no action alternative, the proposed fire stations would not be built, and Sumter County residents would not experience public health and safety benefits associated with improved response time.

11.4 Public Service and Utilities

11.4.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

The proposed project site is located within an area zoned for Public use. Infrastructure associated with the City of Bushnell public water supply is presently located onsite and is slated for renovation to include a 750,000 gallon steel water tank. Potable water and sewer services will be provided to the developed site by the City of Bushnell. The proposed action will require construction of a sewage pump station and force main extension to service the fire station. Electricity will be provided by SECO, telephone services will be provided by Sprint United Telephone, and cable television / internet will be provided by Brighthouse Networks. The proposed action will place minimal additional demand on existing utility systems that are prepared to accommodate development expansion. As discussed in other sections herein, the proposed action will drastically improve fire and rescue services within this underserved County.

11.4.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

The proposed project site is located within an area zoned for Industrial use. Potable water services will be provided to the developed site by the City of Wildwood and sewage services will be provided by an onsite septic system and drain field. The City of Wildwood has entered a developer’s agreement with Sumter County for the construction of a water main extension to accommodate water supply to this site. Electricity will be provided by SECO, telephone services will be provided by Sprint United Telephone, and cable television / internet will be provided by Brighthouse Networks. The proposed action will place minimal additional demand on existing utility systems that are prepared to accommodate development expansion. As discussed in other sections herein, the proposed action will drastically improve fire and rescue services within this underserved County.

Neither proposed action alternative is expected to have an adverse impact on public service and utilities; rather, both proposed actions are expected to drastically improve fire and rescue services within this underserved County. Under the no action alternative, the proposed fire station would not be built; no additional demand would be placed on the existing utilities and Sumter County residents would not experience public health and safety benefits associated with improved fire and rescue emergency response time.

11.5 Environmental Justice

President Clinton signed *EO 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* on February 11, 1994. EO 12898 directs Federal agencies to focus attention on human health and environmental conditions in minority and/or low-income communities. The Order's goals are to achieve environmental justice, fostering non-discrimination in Federal programs that substantially affect human health or the environment, and to give minority or low-income communities greater opportunities for public participation in and access to public information on matters relating to human health and the environment. Also identified and addressed, as appropriate, are disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States.

11.5.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

The W. Bushnell Fire Station #22 site is located within the City of Bushnell. The 2000 census indicates that the City of Bushnell consisted of 83.4% White, 13% Black or African American, 0.3% American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.7% Asian, 0% Pacific Islander, 1.3% from other races, and 1.3% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 3.6% of the population. The median income in 2000 for a household in the city was \$26,676, and the median family income was \$34,063. This is below the U.S. median family income of \$50,046.

11.5.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

The Coleman Fire Station #33 site was recently annexed into the City of Wildwood. The 2000 census indicates that the City of Wildwood consisted of 64.8% White, 32.9% Black or African American, 0.1% American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.1% Asian, 0% Pacific Islander, 1% from other races, and 1.1% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 2.4% of the population. The median income in 2000 for a household in the city was \$23,357, and the median family income was \$27,247. This is below the U.S. median family income of \$50,046.

As part of their Mission Statement, SCFR's core values include Courage, Unity, Respect, and Excellence; with regard to the core value of Respect, SCFR commits to "*Mutual respect for those we work with and for, regardless of rank or position*" (Matrix, 2010). As a result, both proposed actions presented herein are not expected to have a disproportionate impact on low-income or minority groups. Rather, the additional fire and emergency medical services that will be provided by the new fire station will improve public safety for all citizens, regardless of socioeconomic class, within an area that is presently experiencing increased response times due to inadequate facilities for around-the-clock staffing. Under the no action alternative, construction activities would not take place, eliminating any positive socioeconomic impact potential for the community.

12.0 NOISE

The Noise Control Act (NCA) of 1972 provides federal regulation of noise, which is defined as undesirable sound. The NCA gives the USEPA authority to establish guidelines for acceptable ambient noise levels. Under USEPA guidelines, outdoor sound levels in excess of 55 decibels (dB) are considered "normally unacceptable" for noise-sensitive land uses such as residences, schools, and hospitals.

Both proposed project sites are zoned for development; W. Bushnell Fire Station #22 is zoned for Public Use and Coleman Fire Station #33 is zoned for Industrial. Temporary short-term impacts due to noise are anticipated during the construction period. To reduce noise levels during this period, construction activities will take place during normal daylight business hours.

The proposed action will introduce long-term operational impacts to adjacent developed areas. Fire equipment and station alarms during an emergency can range from approximately 95 to 120 dB. Such intermittent elevated noise would only be sustained for extremely short durations, and would only be experienced when responding to emergency incidents or infrequent equipment testing. This impact cannot be entirely mitigated due to NFPA 1901 and State Fire Marshal requirements for minimum sound-warning requirements for fire equipment when responding to an emergency. However, in an effort to reduce impacts these alarms will only be used when necessary for emergency response & testing.

Under the No Action alternative, short-term construction activities and long-term use of alarms would not take place and noise impacts would not occur.

13.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are defined as the impact on the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future action.

The "green initiative" occurring in contemporary design and construction projects is increasing the use of stringent environmental standards and energy efficiencies to increase sustainability and lower the impact of new buildings on the environment. In the case of both proposed actions discussed herein, the projects are sited within portions of the County which are ideally suited for development. Both sites can be developed with minimal impact to geology & soils, air quality, biological resources, water resources, historic and cultural resources, and socioeconomic resources. Further, both sites were designed to be compliant with many aspects of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification system. This level of environmental diligence in construction design will further avoid and minimize cumulative impacts.

Furthermore, the proposed actions are essential to accommodate the anticipated future development and growth within Sumter County. As discussed above, three (3) Developments of Regional Impact (DRI's) have been approved surrounding the City of Coleman, all of which will be dependent upon emergency response from Coleman Station #33. Likewise, these developments are dependant upon the proposed actions to meet development concurrency for project approval by the Regional Planning Council.

Both proposed project sites are sited in areas which are zoned for developed uses (public utility and industrial). As a result, the proposed actions are consistent with reasonably foreseeable future action within these areas and therefore no adverse impacts are anticipated. Under the no-action alternative, construction activities would not take place, and adverse cumulative impacts likewise would not occur.

14.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & AGENCIES CONSULTED

14.1 Public Involvement

The Sumter County Fire Advisory Board was created through *Sumter County Ordinance No. 2002-22* in order to provide input for the public interest to the Fire Chief and the County concerning issues related to fire prevention and protection and the consolidated fire rescue service. The Fire Advisory Board meets every 2 months at 6pm in a public forum. Both proposed actions have been extensively discussed by the Advisory Board. While the public is encouraged to attend these board meetings, attendance has been minimal. The limited public response has been in favor of the proposed actions discussed herein.

14.2 Agencies Consulted

All necessary permits and coordination with governing agencies will be the responsibility of the grantee, and will be delegated to the appropriate project consultant and/or contractor. All construction and required regulatory permits will be maintained and posted at the construction site.

14.2.1 W. Bushnell Fire Station #22

Development approval for the W. Bushnell Fire Station #22 will entail receipt of an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), development approval from the City of Bushnell, an NPDES permit from the FDEP, and a Commercial Driveway Permit from Sumter County. To date, permits received include the City of Bushnell development approval and the Sumter County Commercial Driveway Permit (Appendix F). An ERP application has been submitted to the SWFWMD (Application # 46024698.001), and is pending approval. The NPDES permit will be obtained by the construction contractor prior to initiation of construction activities.

14.2.2 Coleman Fire Station #33

Development approval for the Coleman Fire Station #33 will entail receipt of an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), development approval from the City of Wildwood, an NPDES permit from the FDEP, a Commercial Driveway Permit from Sumter County, and a Utilities Right-of-Way Permit from Sumter County, and an Onsite Sewage Treatment Disposal System (OSTDS) permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). To date, permits received include the Sumter County Commercial Driveway Permit and the Sumter County Utilities Right-of-Way Permit (Appendix F). An ERP application has been submitted to the SWFWMD (Application # 46035426.000), and is pending approval. An application for development approval has also been submitted to the City of Wildwood and is pending

approval. The NPDES permit will be obtained by the construction contractor prior to initiation of construction activities.

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