



Foothills Fire Protection District

(In Case of Emergency Dial 911)

RAINBOW HILLS WENT \$80,000 OVER AUTHORIZATION. FFPD has the funds to pay this overage but it is important to explain how the amount spent differed from the \$60k authorized.

\$60,000 PLUS VOLUNTEER LABOR AUTHORIZED. In January of 2008, the Board of Directors (Marvin Miller, T.J Carney, Debi Medved, Ric Koogle and Dick Bartlett) agreed that the District should purchase a modular from Medved Autoplex at a significantly reduced rate. The Board also authorized \$60,000 for this purchase plus all expected renovations. We expected a significant amount of volunteer labor and materials, and we started with the move and the work toward renovation. Unfortunately, we did not bid out the project, or schedule the timing and actual expense of the expected project at that time based on bids and estimates.

DETAILS OF OVERAGE. As we are completed this project, we discovered a mistake in the tracking of the finances. Some of the renovation work has resulted in upgraded materials over what was expected at the time we started. While these upgrades benefit the volunteers and staff, many are now questioning whether they should have been added.

The finances for this project were not tracked against the \$60,000 authorization, but instead from a different, higher number that represented funds budgeted for capital improvements, including those received by the District from Clear Channel. Thus, when some asked questions or reviewed what our budgets for 2008 and 2009 had available, the upgrades and actual project cost did fit within the funds on hand, but significantly in excess of the amount authorized. The funds specifically authorized were not the focus, as it should have been.

As we did not plan this out in advance, there was no specific schedule created to compare authorized amounts to amounts being contracted for or spent. In addition, there was a volunteer consulting engineer reviewing portions of what was done, but he was not deemed a project manager. At some point this was taken on by the Chief, to push the project forward, but in essence one of our contractors undertook much of the coordination that should have been handled by a general contractor or project manager. The result is that one item of the renovation has exceeded the entire authorization for the project.

Some have also asked about the timely completion of the project. We thought, until late last Spring that things were on schedule. At our April Board meeting it became clear that a significant miscommunication of what funds were allocated vs. what funds were actually authorized for use had occurred, at least since the late summer of 2008.

