

Improving Public Safety in Sutter Creek

Gold Rush Ranch and Golf Resort has been designed with safety of the Sutter Creek community foremost in mind. The project will donate sites for both a police substation and a new fire station. These site donations mean that Gold Rush Ranch's contributions to Sutter Creek's safety go above and beyond the project's fair share and legal requirements.

Future residents of Gold Rush Ranch and Golf Resort will help generate millions of dollars from sales taxes, property taxes and fees that will help fund a new paid fire department that will build upon the success of today's all-volunteer force. Both the new fire station and police station sites at Gold Rush Ranch and Golf Resort are close to Highway 49 so as to afford new levels of protection for both existing Sutter Creek residents as well as new residents of Gold Rush Ranch.

There is currently great demand for a fire station with a full time staff. In the 1960's, Sutter Creek's volunteers responded to approximately 20 calls per year; in 2008, there were over 500 emergency calls. There is 25 times the demand today then there was in the 1960's.

Currently, Sutter Creek's firefighting force is comprised of well-trained and capable volunteers. However, when fires or emergencies occur, the volunteers must leave their day jobs to report for duty at the volunteer fire house—a delay that often increases the time required to respond to an emergency.

Other efforts in recent years to produce funding for public safety have been insufficient. Last fall, area voters approved Measure M, a sales tax increase, but it is not generating new revenues because consumers are making fewer purchases during the recession. Just as significant, the Community Facility District approved by the Amador County Board of Supervisors is also currently not producing the necessary revenues because it requires that new home lots be created. Both Measure M and the Community Facilities District require a real project, like Gold Rush Ranch, to produce the funding that they were designed to achieve for the vital public services that keep us safe.