

Vets hall clears issue of sprinklers

By Nick Baptista, The Valley Springs News, Wednesday, February 19, 2014

A major obstacle blocking completion of the Jenny Lind Veterans Memorial District community hall was resolved Friday.

Calaveras County Building Official Jeff White informed former District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli, who has been acting on behalf of the memorial district, that a wet or dry (chemical) automatic fire sprinkler system designed to National Fire Protection Association 13 standards would be acceptable.

The Memorial district, which is in the final stages of obtaining a construction loan to complete the interior portion of the building, wanted to substitute the dry (chemical) fire suppression system over the wet fire suppression system for cost and water-flow reasons.

The switch to the dry system saves as much as \$45,000 in construction costs, but more important, according to memorial district officials, the water flow into the building was insufficient for use of a wet system.

“The issue has been resolved and it was a pleasure working with Jeff (White) who was very receptive,” Tofanelli said. “Hopefully we can now move forward with the loan.”

Resolving the fire suppression issue helps the memorial district figure out the remaining costs to complete the hall so the building can be appraised and a final loan amount determined.

If all goes well, memorial district trustees believe the hall can be completed by the end of the year.

The new hall has been a work in progress the past four years and is three times larger than the existing building, which is 50 years old and has handicap-access, heating, and air-conditioning issues.