APPENDIX C

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This page intentionally left blank

Appendix C-1
Scoping Comments

This page intentionally left blank

Table C-1: Summary of Scoping Comments and Where Addressed in This PEA

Commenter	Issues/Concerns	Where Addressed in this PEA
County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office, September 14, 2015 letter	Letter provided two points of clarification: (1) Los Angeles County has a smaller-scale interoperable LMR system, but it is used by disaster recovery agencies and not primary responders. (2) (2) Although inadequate, there is a system that currently exists; however, the system is not interoperable region-wide in its configuration and relies exclusively on radio spectrum that will no longer be available for exclusive public safety use after FCC statutorily-mandated actions in 2022. Letter expresses full support for the LARICS project.	The purpose of and need for the proposed project is described in Section 1.5 of this PEA.
City of Calabasas, September 8, 2015 letter	Consider City's Scenic Corridor Development Guidelines in design of project.	Specific sites by city location are not addressed in this PEA, but site-specific effects will be evaluated prior to grant funding; that process is summarized in Section 1.2.2 and Figure 1.2-1 of this PEA. Visual effects are addressed in Section 4.11 of this PEA.
	Observe City's Municipal Code (Section 17.32) that protects native oak trees and City's Oak Tree Ordinance to preserve oak trees	Specific sites by city location are not addressed in this PEA, but site-specific effects will be evaluated prior to grant funding; that process is summarized in Section 1.2.2 and Figure 1.2-1 of this PEA. Local land use plans, policies, and regulations are addressed in Sections 3.1 and in 4.1.2 of this PEA.
City of Chino Hills, September 15, 2015 letter	Submit permit application and deposits for site within city limits.	Comment noted. No response required in this PEA.
City of Glendora (via Chatten-Brown & Carstens LLP), September 10, 2015 letter	Aesthetic impacts must be addressed	Visual effects are addressed in Section 4.11.2 of this PEA.
	City is concerned about public safety, specifically radiowave / microwave emissions.	Human health effects, including RF emissions, are addressed in Section 4.5 of this PEA.

Table C-1: Summary of Scoping Comments and Where Addressed in This PEA

Commenter	Issues/Concerns	Where Addressed in this PEA
	Request procedures to examine alternate site locations	Specific sites are not addressed in this PEA. Site-specific effects will be evaluated prior to grant funding; that process is summarized in Section 1.2.2 and Figure 1.2-1 of this PEA. Appendix B of this PEA includes a list of sites, some of which have been eliminated from consideration. As indicated in Section 1.0, grant funding for up to 90 sites is proposed and all sites remaining under consideration are alternative site locations that may be constructed.
	Properly involve City - provide adequate review time for NEPA and CEQA processes and coordinate the reviews.	Section 1.6 of this PEA describes process to announce availability of this PEA and how it was made available for review and comment.
Huntington Park – Community Development Department, August 26, 2015 letter	Requested list of potential LMR project sites.	The list of potential LMR sites is included in Appendix B.
	Requested information on whether any LMR project sites are located within City of Huntington Park, and if so, whether on private or public right-of-way.	Specific sites by city location are not addressed in this PEA, although the list of sites considered is included in Appendix B. Site-specific effects will be evaluated prior to grant funding; that process is summarized in Section 1.2.2 and Figure 1.2-1 of this PEA
City of Rancho Palos Verdes, September 10, 2015 letter transmitting previous comment letters dated September 23 and 29, 2014.	Site PVC would impact visual resources. Eliminate site or fully evaluate aesthetic impacts of site.	As indicated in Appendix B, Site PVC has been eliminated from consideration.
	Site PVC would be surrounded by the Alta Vicente Reserve of the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Site RHT would abut the Vista del Norte Reserve of the City's Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Eliminate sites or fully evaluate biological resource impacts.	Specific sites are not addressed in this PEA, but site-specific effects will be evaluated prior to grant funding; that process is summarized in Section 1.2.2 and Figure 1.2-1 of this PEA. Biological resource effects are addressed in Section 4.4.2 of this PEA.
	Site PVC would impact cultural resources. Eliminate site or fully evaluate cultural resource impacts.	As indicated in Appendix B, Site PVC has been eliminated from consideration.
	A significant portion of Site RHT is within the City of Rollins Hills Estates; recommend you contact them to identify historic resources within their jurisdiction.	Historic properties are addressed in Section 3.7 and 4.7.2 of this PEA.

Table C-1: Summary of Scoping Comments and Where Addressed in This PEA

Commenter	Issues/Concerns	Where Addressed in this PEA
	An approximate five-acre portion of the city property surrounding site PVC is leased to James Hatano, who returned to farming this last vestige of commercial agricultural property after the Japanese internment during World War II.	As indicated in Appendix B, Site PVC has been eliminated from consideration. Land use impacts, including prime or unique farmland, are addressed in Section 4.1.2 of this PEA.
	Fully evaluate the impact of hazardous materials at Sites PVC, RHT, and SPC for impacts to schools within 0.25 mile radius.	Specific sites are not addressed in this PEA, but site-specific effects will be evaluated prior to grant funding; that process is summarized in Section 1.2.2 and Figure 1.2-1 of this PEA. Human health effects are addressed in Section 4.5.2 of this PEA.
	Site RHT would impact visual resources; eliminate site or fully evaluate aesthetic impacts of the site. Fully evaluate feasibility of collocating LMR equipment with existing antenna structure.	Specific sites are not addressed, in this PEA, but site-specific effects will be evaluated prior to grant funding; that process is summarized in Section 1.2.2 and Figure 1.2-1 of this PEA. Visual effects are addressed in Section 4.11.2 of this PEA. Section 2.2.4.1 of this PEA provides the criteria used in determining if collocation on existing antenna support structures would be feasible.
	Site RHT should not be located within portion of the site that is zoned "Open Space-Hazard." Fully evaluate land use and planning impacts.	Specific sites are not addressed, in this PEA, but site-specific effects will be evaluated prior to grant funding; that process is summarized in Section 1.2.2 and Figure 1.2-1 of this PEA. Land use effects are addressed in Section 4.1.2 of this PEA.
	Site SPC would impact visual resources. Fully evaluate aesthetic impacts of the site. Fully evaluate feasibility of collocating LMR equipment with existing antenna structures.	As indicated in Appendix B, Site SPC has been eliminated from consideration.
	Site SPC is located within City of Rollins Hills; recommend you contact them to identify historic resources within its jurisdiction.	As indicated in Appendix B, Site SPC has been eliminated from consideration.

Table C-1: Summary of Scoping Comments and Where Addressed in This PEA

Commenter	Issues/Concerns	Where Addressed in this PEA
	Fully evaluate geology and soils impacts regarding landslides and expansive soils. Mandate site-specific geologic and geotechnical studies prior to construction.	Effects on geology and soils as well as seismic risks are addressed in Section 4.2.2 of this PEA. As indicated in Section 2.2.1, site-specific geotechnical investigations are proposed.
	Fully evaluate hydrology and water quality impacts. Mandate site-specific conditions for compliance with local, state, and federal water quality regulations prior to construction.	Effects on water resources are addressed in Section 4.3.2 of this PEA.
	Fully evaluate noise and transportation/traffic impacts. Mandate specific mitigation measures to address them.	Effects from noise are addressed in Section 4.10.2. Effects on transportation are addressed in Section 4.8.2 of this PEA. Mitigation measures are listed in Appendix F of this PEA.
	Consider only collocating new antennae with existing structures rather than construct new towers and monopoles.	Section 2.2.4.1 of this PEA provides the criteria used in determining if collocation on existing antenna support structures would be feasible. Effects on environmental resources for each site type are addressed throughout Section 4 of this PEA.
	Clarify if the city will have authority to review sites through development review and building permit processes.	As indicated in Section 4.1.2.1 of this PEA, the Authority would be responsible for obtaining required approvals from appropriate authorities to be consistent with the land use plans of jurisdictions with authority for a proposed LMR site. However, as noted in Section 3.1.1.4 of this PEA, the Authority is not subject to certain local land-use plans, policies, and regulations under the doctrine of intergovernmental immunity [California Government Code § 53090(a) and 53091(a)].

Table C-1: Summary of Scoping Comments and Where Addressed in This PEA

Commenter	Issues/Concerns	Where Addressed in this PEA
	Will sites within the city be included if the city opts out of participating?	As discussed in Section 1.6 of this PEA, although some cities have elected to not participate in the LMR project, sites within those cities may still be considered to provide full voice coverage of the system with the fewest number of sites possible.
Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association, September 14, 2015 letter	Site SVP would impact visual resources and wildlife.	Specific sites are not addressed in this PEA, but Site SVP has been eliminated from consideration, as indicated in Appendix B.
Sierra Club – Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, September 15, 2015 email	Proposed Site SVP would impact parkland, viewsheds, and sensitive habitat on San Vicente Peak and within Mulholland Scenic Corridor.	As indicated in Appendix B, Site SVP has been eliminated from consideration.

County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
http://ceo.lacounty.gov

SACHI A. HAMAI
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

RECEIVED
SEP 16 2015
BY:

September 14, 2015

Ms. Jill S. Dale
Grants Program Sr. Environmental Specialist
U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, California 94607

Dear Ms. Dale:

Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS)
Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project - HSGP 2010-SS-TO-0085 (17651)
Subrecipient: City of Los Angeles

As a member of the Joint Powers Authority for the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communication System (LA-RICS), the County of Los Angeles wholeheartedly supports:

(1) This Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project, and

(2) The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposal to fund the associated installation of emergency communications facilities in the Los Angeles County Operational Area.

Therefore, we encourage FEMA to favorably consider this project during your due diligence with this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process.

Two points of clarification should be brought to your attention. First, there is a smaller-scale interoperable LMR system currently operating by and within Los Angeles County, but it is used by disaster recovery agencies and not primary responders. The proposed project will allow for consolidation of its infrastructure and equipment with the existing LMR system such that interoperable communications capabilities will be available regionally for all public safety responders and emergency managers.

Second, the new LMR project was described in FEMA's August 13, 2015 letter as one which "would establish a communications system for emergency responders, <u>currently not available</u>, that would allow for an efficient and coordinated response to emergencies

in the County of Los Angeles." Although woefully inadequate, there is a system that currently exists. However, the existing system is not interoperable region-wide in its configuration, and it relies exclusively on radio spectrum that will no longer be available for exclusive public safety use after Federal Communications Commission (FCC) statutorily-mandated auctions in 2022. All of this magnifies the need for the proposed project.

The County of Los Angeles fully supports the LA-RICS project, and respectfully request that FEMA expedite this NEPA compliance review as well as support the funding for this much-needed region-wide interoperable communications project.

We trust that these comments will assist in your NEPA assessment of proposed project, and facilitate your reaching positive conclusions regarding continued financial support. However, if we can be of additional assistance, please feel free to contact me or Alvia Shaw, of my staff, at (213) 974-7315 or ashaw@ceo.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,

SACHI A.HAMAI
Interim Chief Executive Officer

SAH:ADC
AS:tlh

CITY *of* CALABASAS

RECEIVED
SEP 15 2018
BY:

September 8, 2015

US Department of Homeland Security
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607
Attn: Ms. Jill S. Dale

RE: Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project, HSGP 2010-SS-T0-0085 (17651)

Dear Ms. Dale,

The City of Calabasas is in receipt of your Agency's notice to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Assessment on the LMR project in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It is our understanding that one or more of the proposed facilities will be located within the City of Calabasas. Please include this document as the City of Calabasas' official comments regarding the proposed project.

From previous communications with LA-RICS representatives, the City is aware of three locations that were considered for construction of LA-RICS facilities. The three locations are 24130 Calabasas Road, 5215 Las Virgenes Road and 27050 Agoura Road. All three locations are located within a City designated scenic corridor. As such, all development within a designated Scenic Corridor is subject to design parameters contained with the *Scenic Corridor Development Guidelines*. All development within a scenic corridor should be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment. As a result, communication facilities should be of a stealth design in order to achieve this goal. The Fire Station located at 5215 Las Virgenes Road is also located within the Las Virgenes Gateway Master Plan, which contains specific development standards and aesthetic criteria, such as Monterey style architecture, for this portion of the City. Finally, Section 17.32 of the Calabasas Municipal Code (CMC) protects native oak trees. In accordance with the City's Oak Tree Ordinance, "It is the policy of the city to preserve and enhance its ecosystem, one element being its inventory of oak trees and scrub oak habitat". The City respectfully requests that your agency consider the above mentioned documents and ordinance in the evaluation of environmental impacts as a result of the build-out of LA-RICS facilities.

Sincerely,

Michael Klein
Planner
City of Calabasas, CA
Tel: (818) 224-1710
mklein@cityofcalabasas.com

100 Civic Center Way
Calabasas, CA 91302
(818) 224-1600
Fax (818) 225-7324

City of Chino Hills

RECEIVED
SEP 21 2018
BY:_____

14000 City Center Drive
Chino Hills, CA 91709
(909) 364-2600
www.chinohills.org

September 15, 2015

Ms. Jill S. Dale
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

SUBJECT: Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project

Dear Ms. Dale,

The City would like to appreciate this opportunity to work with City of Los Angeles and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Region IX on the Land Mobile Radio Project. It is to our knowledge, based on the notice letter sent to the City of Chino Hills in 2014, the project description and locations of the proposed radio towers show one particular location within city limits of Chino Hills. In order to acquire appropriate permits, the following applications will be required;

1. Site Development Permit Application ($6,042 deposit)
2. Trust Deposit Account Application
3. Trust Deposit Account Agreement

The Site Development Permit Application is processed administratively at the Director of Community Developments discretion. This process should take anywhere between 1-3 months to obtain approval.

If you have questions, please contact me at (909) 364-2777.

Sincerely,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Michael Hofflinger
Associate Planner

Encl: Site Development Permit Application
Trust Deposit Account Application
Trust Deposit Account Agreement

City Council: Art Bennett ▪ Ed M. Graham ▪ Ray Marquez ▪ Cynthia Moran ▪ Peter J. Rogers

City of Chino Hills
Community Development Department
Planning Division
14000 City Center Drive
Chino Hills, CA 91709
(909) 364-2740 Fax (909) 364-2795
www.chinohills.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT INFORMATION & APPLICATION

A Site Development Permit provides an administrative review and approval of detailed plans for proposed uses which have a relatively low potential for adverse impact on the subject site or the surrounding community due to the nature or magnitude of the use. This is an Actual Cost application. The actual cost for a project is determined by the time spent by staff on that project and the associated personnel benefits, department overhead, and other costs incurred for that project.

APPLICATION FEE: Refer to the Community Development Fee/Deposit Schedule for application fee amounts.

ADDITIONAL FEES:

Fire District Review Fee: Fire District Review Fees will be required prior to application submittal. Contact the Chino Valley Independent Fire District at (909) 902-5280 for fee applicability and payment prior to application submittal.

Building and Safety Review: For projects requiring a Geology Report or a Geologic Feasibility Analysis. Refer to the Community Development Fee/Deposit Schedule for application fee amounts. This deposit must be submitted to the building and safety public service counter by a separate check.

SITE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT INFORMATION & PROCEDURES:

1. We encourage you or a representative to discuss the site proposal with the Planning Department staff at the public information counter to obtain general information regarding applicable regulations and necessary procedures. If further information is required, a pre-application conference or consultation may be appropriate.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

City of Chino Hills
Community Development Department
Administration
14000 City Center Drive
Chino Hills, CA 91709
(909) 364-2740 Fax (909) 364-2795
www.chinohills.org

TRUST DEPOSIT ACCOUNT APPLICATION

PART I PROJECT OWNER INFORMATION*

Name of Owner/Legal Entity: _____
(Individual name or corporate name under which all financial transactions for this project will be conducted)
Billing Address: _____
_____

Name of Contact: _____
(Typically the project manager at the project owner or legal entity's firm)
Contact's Phone Number(s): Phone: _____
Fax: _____

PART II APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant: _____
(Typically the Project Owner's representative authorized to submit the project and will be the City's main contact)
Name of Contact: _____
Contact's Phone Number(s): Phone: _____
Fax: _____

PART III PROJECT INFORMATION

Name of Project: _____
Project Description: _____
_____

Project Location: _____

*** UNLESS THE PROJECT OWNER MAKES OTHER ARRANGEMENTS IN WRITING, THE PROJECT OWNER WILL BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT INCLUDING DEFICITS AND WILL ALSO BE THE ONLY PARTY ENTITLED TO ANY REFUNDS AT THE END OF THE PROJECT**

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Print Name: _____

For Office Use Only
Submittal Date _____
Please provide TDA number:
Community Development TDA No. 16_____
Engineering TDA No. 17_____

Applications and fees are subject to change. Please visit our website for the most current version of this application.

2. Once a formal application is submitted, the application will be scheduled for the Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting where staff from the different City Departments and Divisions will comment on the proposal, discuss whether the application is complete or incomplete, and identify any corrections that are required on the plan(s). If the application is complete and there is no correction that must be made on the plan(s), the PRC will discuss conditions of approval, and make a recommendation to the Director of Community Development.

3. Any decision by the Director of Community Development or designee may be appealed to the Chino Hills Planning Commission.

SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST:

(All Items must be included at the time of submittal)

PLEASE RETURN THIS CHECKLIST WITH APPLICATION PACKET UPON SUBMITTAL. ONLY USE CITY FORMS. IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED, USE ATTACHEMENTS. COMPUTER GENERATED APPLICATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

____ **One (1) Copy** of completed application.

____ **One (1) signed and dated** copy of the "Trust Deposit Account Procedures/ Agreement" Form.

____ **Fifteen (15) copies** of plot plan, floor plans, conceptual grading, and elevations drawn at a scale to accurately delineate the proposed project. (Folded accordion style – 8 x 11 size.) (Refer to the plot plan checklist for specific requirements. A conceptual plan is not acceptable.)

____ **One (1) reduced copy** (8 x 11) of each plan submitted.

____ **Three (3) copies** of photo simulations, if required.

____ **One (1) Copy** of a Preliminary Title Report, if required.

____ **Three (3) copies** of technical studies (RF emission analysis, coverage area, and site locations throughout the City, etc.).

____ **One (1) copy** of the receipt of payment of Fire Review Fees or letter stating such fees are not applicable. (Payment of these fees may be accomplished at the Chino Valley Independent Fire District, located at 14011 City Center Dr., Chino Hills, CA 91709. Please contact the Fire District at Phone Number (909) 902-5280 regarding Fire Review Fees.

SPECIFIC PLOT PLAN REQUIREMENTS:

SITE PLAN TO BE DRAWN TO SCALE ON ONE SHEET (MINIMUM 18" X 24") SHOWING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

____ Names, addresses and telephone numbers of the record owner, applicant and the person preparing the map.

____ Legal description and Assessor's Parcel Number of the property involved.

____ North point, date of drawing and **ENGINEER'S** scale (suggest 1:20 or 1:30).

____ Location, width and names of streets and recorded easements on property. Locate all existing road improvements and driveway locations.

____ Dimensions of property lines or boundary lines of project and parcels within project.

____ Location, size and use of all existing and proposed buildings and structures, including dimensions, square footage, distance from property lines, and building separation.

____ Locate all signs, including a side elevation for all proposed signs showing the face dimensions, overall height, and height above grade from bottom of sign.

____ Submit a letter of intent clearly indicating all intended uses associated with the proposal, which clearly identifies the specific areas in which uses will be conducted.

____ Indicate the present land use of all surrounding property.

____ Show parking spaces in detail. Refer to the City's Development Code for detailed information regarding parking requirements for your use and for handicapped parking requirements.

____ Show loading zone space(s) (10'x20'), if required.

____ Indicate any unusual drainage or hilly terrain that might affect the building site, parking area or access by flow line arrows and contour lines.

____ Vicinity Map.

THIS SECTION INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

City of Chino Hills
Community Development Department
Planning Division
14000 City Center Drive
Chino Hills, CA 91709
(909) 364-2740 Fax (909) 364-2795
www.chinohills.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Owner's Name: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Assessor's Parcel Number: _____

Individual to be notified other than owner:

Name: _____ Telephone No.: _____

Address: _____

Address or general location of property: (**Important:** Indicate which side of the street, property's location from nearest street or intersection)

_____

_____

Project Description: (Please provide as much detail as possible.)

_____

_____

_____

I certify under penalty of perjury that I am the (check one):

- ☐ Legal Owner (all individuals must sign their names, names appear on the deed to the land, or)
- ☐ Owner's Legal Agent, and that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

City of Chino Hills
Community Development Department
Administration
14000 City Center Drive
Chino Hills, CA 91709
(909) 364-2740 Fax (909) 364-2795
www.chinohills.org

Trust Deposit Account Agreement

October 1, 2007

Final

1. In order to process a land development project in the City of Chino Hills (City), a Trust Deposit Account (TDA) must be established prior to the City commencing any work on the project. The following information must be provided and the following provisions agreed to in order to establish a TDA:

    a. Name of Applicant: Project Owner or Legal Entity: (This will be the corporate name under which all financial transactions for this project will be conducted.)

    b. Billing Address for Applicant.

    c. Contact Person for the Applicant and Contact Person's Phone Number(s).

    d. Name of Project, Project Description & Location.

2. The following will be provided by City staff:

    a. The required project deposit amount.

    b. An assigned Project Manager.

3. When paying the initial TDA deposit amount or any required supplemental payments:

    a. The Trust Deposit Account number must be placed on all checks to ensure proper posting of payments made.

    b. There will be a return check charge of $33.00.

    c. Once a check has been returned, applicant must pay with a cashier's check or cash.

    d. A Stop Work Status will be issued if required TDA deposits are not paid within two weeks of the request for additional TDA funds. Work will re-commence once the funds are received. (If the applicant does not agree with project charges and would like an opportunity to protest the charges without slowing work on the project, he/she may pay the required TDA supplemental amount in order to keep the project moving forward while the protest of charges is considered.)

    e. The Project Manager will be the communication link between applicants and the City, except for issues that are purely financial in nature, which the applicant may direct to Finance staff.

Applications and fees are subject to change. Please visit our website for the most current version of this application.

4. On a monthly basis, the Finance Department will mail financial status statements to the applicant, which will consist of project costs incurred by City staff, consultants, and legal fees, in addition to reimbursable costs, such as postage, courier services, County Clerk charges, etc.

5. Applicant has 30 days from the date of preparation of the monthly statement to dispute any charge(s).

    a. Disputes shall be submitted, in writing, to the Finance Department. Finance staff will route disputes to the appropriate Department Director.

6. City will investigate any charge disputes within ten (10) business days of written notice of the dispute and will notify applicant of outcome of investigation within five (5) additional business days. <u>This decision will be final</u>.

7. Supplemental deposits may be required periodically, which will be determined by the Project Manager and/or the Department Director. When additional deposit has been requested, work will be suspended on the project when ninety-five (95) percent of the deposit previously received has been expended.

8. A separate, ancillary project TDA may be required for large projects if there are Council-approved contracts issued to support the project, such as for EIR consultant services, quality control engineering, etc. This will be handled separately from the primary project TDA. A separate monthly financial statement will be prepared for this type of TDA.

9. Ancillary TDAs will not be included in or referenced on a project's monthly primary account TDA statement.

10. Work will not continue unless and until any required additional TDA deposit amount is received. Projects will not be brought before the approving body for review and approval if money is due.

11. If a change of ownership occurs for the project, the existing owner must notify the City, in writing, of the change, and must provide for the effective date of the change.

    a. The Project Manager, in cooperation with the Building/Engineering/ Planning Counter will open a new account, along with requiring an initial TDA deposit for the new applicant. This will be submitted to Finance, as with the initiation of any new project TDA.

    b. A new TDA number will be issued for the new legal entity.

    c. If the new applicant has acquired (as part of the project acquisition) the project TDA funds already deposited with the City by the existing applicant, a notarized letter from the existing applicant directing the transfer of those funds to the new applicant must be submitted to the City.
    d. f the new applicant is not acquiring the project funds on file with the City as part of the ownership transfer, the existing applicant will go through the TDA refund process once all charges for the project have been paid and the outlined deposit refund timeframe has transpired.

12. Post Entitlement/Public Improvements TDAs:

    a. For the Post Entitlement/Public Improvements phase, a new TDA will be created. The Engineer's estimate for public improvements for the project will be used to establish the required deposit amount.
    b. The deposit amount may consist of new and/or transferred funds from the Entitlement TDA, if the applicant is the same for both phases of the project, or from new funds if the applicants are different for the two phases of the project.

13. Refund Process:

    a. At the completion of the project, a refund for any remaining TDA funds will be issued to the applicant, commensurate with the project's bond release.
        i. The applicant is to request a refund through the defined refund process.
        ii. If no refund is requested, any remaining funds may become the property of the City after the required period of time elapses, in accordance with California law.

    b. If a new legal entity acquires a project before its completion, the prior entity may request a refund of any remaining TDA balance in the prior entity's account. Such a refund will not occur until at least 90 days has elapsed after the effective date of the change in project ownership, and City staff has determined that all appropriate charges have been posted and collected against the prior entity's TDA.

14. Miscellaneous:

    a. TDA deposits may be used to cover unpaid bills owed to the City, including any department or district it controls or administers, e.g. water charges that have not been paid.

    b. Monthly statement financial questions are to be directed to the Finance Department, Trust Deposit Account Specialist.

    c. All other project questions are to be directed to the Project Manager.

    d. There is no guarantee that a project will be approved. Regardless of the approval or non-approval of a project, all costs for processing the project must be paid.

    e. Project staff will, to the best of their ability, provide an anticipated cost to process a project. This estimate will not include Post Entitlement work, as that dollar amount is determined by the Engineer's Estimate once a project is Entitled.

        i. Many factors impact the cost of processing a project, including the completeness and quality of a project submittal, the timeliness of required submittals, environmental issues/concerns, neighborhood issues/concerns, etc. For these reasons, staff can only provide a projected processing cost, but the ultimate cost may be higher. The applicant is responsible to pay all costs to process a project, regardless of whether or not the costs are higher than staff's initial projection.

_____	_____
Applicant Signature	Date

_____

Print Name & Title

CHATTEN-BROWN & CARSTENS LLP
2200 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY
SUITE 318
HERMOSA BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90254
www.cbcearthlaw.com

Telephone: (310) 798-2400
Facsimile: (310) 798-2402

E-mail:
DPC@CBCEARTHLAW.COM

September 10, 2015

RECEIVED
SEP 15 2015
BY:

Ms. Jill S. Dale
FEMA Region IX
Grants Program Sr. Environmental Specialist,
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Comments Regarding Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Funding of LA-RICS towers proposed for construction in the City of Glendora and Elsewhere; Request for Future Notifications

Dear Ms. Dale:

We have been retained as special counsel to the City of Glendora (City) with regard to the FEMA proposal to fund the construction of communications towers. We anticipate that three of these towers would be sited in the City of Glendora. The location and design for these communications towers, possibly at three Los Angeles County owned fire stations within City, should be coordinated with the City.

We reviewed the October 2014 Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impacts prepared for LA-RICS and found it did not adequately address aesthetic and public safety impacts within the City.

The City was not given sufficient notice of the specifics of the proposal prior to the October 2014 Environmental Assessment. Therefore, we appreciate your attempt to involve the City among other affected jurisdictions prior to promulgating the programmatic environmental assessment.

The City has always attempted in good faith to work with the LA-RICS Joint Powers Authority to address the serious concerns with the project identified by City staff and residents. These issues will remain an ongoing source of friction unless they are satisfactorily addressed. Specifically, the areas for which particular attention is necessary are aesthetics, public safety, and potential alternative sites.

A. Aesthetic Impacts Could Be Significant to Glendora, and Must be Mitigated.

Aesthetic impacts must be sufficiently addressed. Because the telecommunications towers would be erected substantially taller than the surrounding residential development, they would be visible from local streets and residences. They would adversely affect that attractiveness of our community, and thus we view them as significant impacts. Federal courts have held that aesthetic concerns of nearby residents and other members of the public could constitute compelling evidence for a public agency to deny permission for a proposed tower. (*AT&T Wireless PCS v. City Council of Virginia Beach* 155 F.3d 423,430-31 (4th Cir. 1998).) While we are not proposing that FEMA would deny funding for the proposed transmission towers, we mention this case to show the seriousness of aesthetic concerns created by the towers.

For most proposed towers, including the three County fire station sites in the City, the LA-RICS EA concluded the project "would not impede any significant views from public spaces, roadways, and or existing developments in the vicinity of these LTE sites." (EA, p. 4.7-1.) As the local jurisdiction immediately affected by the towers and most familiar with the areas surrounding them, we respectfully disagreed with this assessment. Even if the towers did not impede views, they would create large, discordant visual impacts that would be highly visible from near and far.

The EA prepared by LA-RICS stated LA-RICS would coordinate with local jurisdictions and where appropriate "stealth technology would be used to disguise the proposed monopole towers as palm trees, pine trees, flagpoles, or hose towers, or incorporated into architectural elements." (*Ibid.*) Therefore, the EA concluded there would be no direct significant impact on aesthetic and visual resources.

However, despite our attempts to coordinate with LA-RICs in good faith to implement stealth technologies for the tower sites in the City, we have received no satisfactory response. With regard to the Programmatic EA, FEMA should ensure that procedures are in place in local jurisdictions to address mitigation of aesthetic impacts.

B. Public Safety Impacts Could Be Significant.

Glendora is concerned that the towers may emit radiowave/microwave emissions that are injurious to the health of citizens residing in close proximity to the towers. One tower is proposed for a site located in close proximity to a day care facility. We would appreciate being informed of any studies proving that the towers will not pose a health risk to the children attending this day care facility.

Many studies have found a correlation between exposure to electromagnetic fields and cancer. (*See, e.g.*, Nancy Wertheimer & Edward Leeper, *Electrical Wiring*

Configurations and Childhood Cancer, 109 Amer. J. Of Epidemiology 273-84 (1979); L. Tomenius, *50-Hz Electromagnetic Environment and the Incidence of Childhood Tumors in Stockholm County*, 7 Bioelectromagnetics 191-207 (1986); D.A. Savitz et al., *Magnetic Field Exposure From Electric Appliances and Childhood Cancer*, 131 Amer. J. Of Epidemiology 763-73 (1990); J.R. Wilkins & Ruth Koutras, *Paternal Occupation and Brain Cancer in Offspring: A Mortality-Based Case-Control Study*, 14 Amer. J. Of Ind. Med. 299-318 (1988); K.T.S. Yao, *Microwave Radiation-Induced Chromosomal Aberrations in Corneal Epithelium of Chinese Hamsters*, 69 J. Of Heredity 409-12 (1978); Ellen Sugarman, Warning: The Electricity Around You May Be Hazardous To Your Health, App. A (1992) (containing extensive list of major studies).

Public health and safety are issues of great interest within our City, especially as they affect children. Therefore, we hope FEMA through the programmatic EA will take this question seriously, and work with us to address it.

C. Alternative Locations Should be Seriously Considered for One or All of the Towers.

Perhaps the best way to address the aesthetic and public safety impacts of the communications towers is to locate them in alternative locations within the City that would cause less severe impacts. Reasonable alternative locations available in the City that would reduce environmental impacts include Johnstone Peak, where Glendora currently has a tower for its communications, and the South Hills. These environmentally superior alternatives should be examined in an implementation of LA-RICS. Therefore, we ask that the programmatic EA ensure procedures are implemented to closely examine potential alternative sites.

D. Coordination Efforts With State-Level Agencies Should be Clearly Explained.

We are aware there notice was provided of the preparation of an EIR in August 2014 for the LA-RICS LMR project. (http://www.la-rics.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/LARICS-LMR-EIR-NOP-20140819.pdf .) We would like to know how the FEMA Programmatic EA review will be coordinated with this state-level EIR.

While Glendora is a member of LA-RICS, the process of environmental review to date has caused us some concern. The City of Glendora sent a letter on March 14, 2015 to the County of Los Angeles expressing concern with the review process. (Enclosure 1.)

The state level process of LA-RICS LMR implementation at the County of Los Angeles ended abruptly because of concerns raised to County elected officials. ("U.S. suspends funding for troubled L.A. County emergency system" April 3, 2015, Los

Angeles Times, http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-emergency-radios-20150403-story.html.) After some revision, the process apparently started again. (http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-county-emergency-system-20150501-story.html, "Feds approve L.A. County emergency system revisions; work can resume.")

We hope that FEMA's federal level coordination of the programmatic EA will result in greater transparency and decisions that properly involve all concerned stakeholders of this project, including the City of Glendora.

Conclusion.

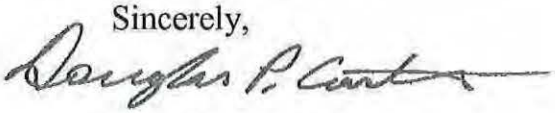
The LA-RICS project is obviously important to the future of public safety in the local region. Therefore, the City has been a supportive member of the Joint Powers Authority implementing this project and as helpful as possible in carrying it out. However, as a member of the LA-RICS Joint Power Authority, we expect a high level of consideration and coordination.

While adverse local area impacts in Glendora are of preeminent concern to us, we expect that similar concerns about impacts to constituents would be shared by a number of other jurisdictions that are members of the JPA.

Please feel free to contact City Attorney Wayne Leech or City Manager Chris Jeffers directly about this matter.

We ask that you provide us with notice of the availability of any documents or the scheduling of any public hearings related to this project.

Sincerely,



Douglas P. Carstens

Enclosure:

City of Glendora letter of March 14, 2015 to the County of Los Angeles

Cc:

City Council, City Manager, City Attorney of Glendora
LA RICS Special Counsel Nicole Gordon
LA RICS General Counsel Truc L. More
LA RICS Executive Director Patrick Mallon

ATTACHMENT

CITY OF GLENDORA CITY HALL (626) 914-8200

116 East Foothill Blvd., Glendora, California 91741
www.ci.glendora.ca.us

March 14, 2015

Honorable Michael D. Antonovich
Los Angeles County Supervisor – 5th District
615 E. Foothill Blvd., Suite A
San Dimas, CA 91773

RE: LA-RICS Monopoles in the City of Glendora

Dear Supervisor Antonovich:

The City of Glendora has been engaged with LA-RICS in asking that no construction of the monopoles be undertaken at this time. This request is based on several factors:

First, LA-RICS is attempting to break the overall project of the communication infrastructure improvement into two phases in order to avoid compliance with National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") which is necessary since the LTE project is funded by the Federal Government. Under both NEPA and the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), such an action is strictly prohibited.

Second, the purpose of NEPA is to identify and study issues with public involvement. Without this process the project may be misunderstood by the public and important information that needs to be addressed and mitigated may be omitted.

Third, the men and women of the Los Angeles County Fire Department have expressed serious concern that these operations may have a negative impact to their health . Our community has depended on their skills and good will for decades. In light of these health concerns, the County and its residents have the obligation to insist that the NEPA process is completed before work is begun.

Fourth, LA-RICS' process in handling the project has been anything but inclusive of the general public. Their actions to date have demonstrated that they have been unable to manage this project successfully. We are told that they must start the project now or they will lose their federal funding. However, they have had nearly a decade of inaction or worse, incompetent action, causing the project to be under studied and over budget.

HUNTINGTON PARK
CALIFORNIA

Community Development Department

August 26, 2015

RECEIVED
SEP 01 2015
BY:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Attn: Ms. Jill S. Dale
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communication Systems (LA-RICS) and Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project

Dear Ms. Dale,

Please consider this letter as a request for more information regarding the proposed LMR project. Specifically, please provide information pertaining to the following:

1. Please provide the City of Huntington Park with a copy of the list of identifying the 116 potential sites for the LMR project.
2. Are any proposed LMR sites located within the City of Huntington Park? If so, are they proposed on private property or on public right-of-ways?
3. Please provide the City of Huntington Park with a copy of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment once it becomes available.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (323) 584-6250 or via email at cluis@hpca.gov.

Sincerely,

Carlos Luis
Senior Planner

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
ADMINISTRATION

10 September 2015

RECEIVED
SEP 15 2015
BY:

Jill S. Dale, Grants Program Sr. Environmental Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1111 Broadway, Ste. 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

SUBJECT: Scoping Comments for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the LA-RICS Land Mobile Radio System

Dear Ms. Dale:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes appreciates the opportunity to comment upon the scope of the proposed Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the above-mentioned project. We have previously offered comments on this proposal in response to a request for scoping comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) that is being prepared for this project pursuant to CEQA. These comments are enclosed, and are hereby submitted to FEMA in response to your request for comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment that is being prepared pursuant to NEPA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this important project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (310) 544-5226 or via e-mail at *kitf@rpvca.gov*.

Sincerely,

Kit Fox, AICP
Senior Administrative Analyst

enclosures

cc: Mayor Jim Knight and Rancho Palos Verdes City Council
Doug Willmore, City Manager
Joel Rojas, Community Development Director

M:\Municipal Services\Emergency Communications\LA-RICS\20150910_Dale_PEAScopingComments.docx

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
ADMINISTRATION

23 September 2014

Nancy Yang, Project Engineer
LA-RICS
2525 Corporate Pl., Ste. 200
Monterey Park, CA 91754

SUBJECT: Scoping Comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the LA-RICS Land Mobile Radio System

Dear Ms. Yang:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes appreciates the opportunity to comment upon the scope of the proposed Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the above-mentioned project. We have reviewed the Notice of Preparation and Initial Study (NOP/IS), and offer the following comments on the three (3) proposed Land Mobile Radio (LMR) sites in the City, as well as general comments on the DEIR and LMR system:

U.S. Coast Guard Property at Point Vicente Park/Civic Center (Location ID: PVC)

1. The discussion of Aesthetics in the NOP/IS (p. 21) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts upon scenic vistas and the visual character of the proposed LMR sites and their surroundings. The proposed PVC location would be located at a visually-prominent site surrounded by the City's civic center and a portion of its nature preserve. There also residential neighborhoods surrounding this site where ocean views would be degraded by the addition of an antenna structure and related support equipment. The addition of an antenna structure and related support equipment is also likely to degrade the character of the open space areas surrounding this site (see enclosed diagram). The City would prefer the elimination of this site from consideration in the proposed project, but failing that, the DEIR should fully evaluate the aesthetic impacts of an LMR site at this location.

2. The discussion of Biological Resources in the NOP/IS (pp. 24-25) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts upon sensitive species and habitat, and that it may conflict with adopted Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs). The proposed PVC location would be surrounded by the Alta Vicente Reserve of the City's Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. The nature reserve property is enrolled as a part of the City's NCCP. The City would prefer the

30940 HAWTHORNE BLVD. / RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275-5391 / (310) 544-5205 / FAX (310) 544-5291
WWW.PALOSVERDES.COM/RPV
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

elimination of this site from consideration in the proposed project, but failing that, the DEIR should fully evaluate the biological resource impacts of an LMR site at this location.

3. The discussion of Cultural Resources in the NOP/IS (pp. 25-26) states that the project is likely to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource. The proposed PVC location would be on the site of an existing World War II-era bunker and the remains of gun batteries at Point Vicente. The bunker and batteries are associated with Fort MacArthur in San Pedro. Furthermore, the surrounding civic center property is a former, Cold War-era Nike missile base, which includes the intact missile silos. Finally, the site would be located within a ½-mile radius of the Point Vicente Lighthouse, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The City would prefer the elimination of this site from consideration in the proposed project, but failing that, the DEIR should fully evaluate the cultural resource impacts of an LMR site at this location.

4. The discussion of Hazards and Hazardous Materials in the NOP/IS (pp. 28-29) states that the project is likely to involve the handling of hazardous materials in the vicinity of a school. Each of the proposed LMR sites would include a diesel-powered back-up generator. Within a ¼-mile radius of the PVC location are the following schools:

   - Peninsula Montessori School, 31100 Hawthorne Blvd.

   The DEIR should fully evaluate the hazards and hazardous materials impacts of an LMR site at this location.

<u>County "Antenna Farm" at 5741 Crestridge Road (Location ID: RHT)</u>

5. The discussion of Aesthetics in the NOP/IS (p. 21) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts upon scenic vistas and the visual character of the proposed LMR sites and their surroundings. The proposed RHT location would be located at a visually-prominent site surrounded by institutional uses and senior citizen housing, as well as a portion of the City's nature preserve. There also residential neighborhoods to the south of this site where views of the Los Angeles Basin would be degraded by the addition of an antenna structure and related support equipment. The addition of an antenna structure and related support equipment is also likely to degrade the character of the open space areas to the north of this site (see enclosed diagram). The City would prefer the elimination of this site from consideration in the proposed project, but failing that, the DEIR should fully evaluate the aesthetic impacts of an LMR site at this location. Furthermore, since there is an existing antenna structure already on this site, the DEIR should fully evaluate the feasibility of co-locating the LMR antennae and

support equipment on this existing structure, rather than installing another antenna support structure on the site.

6. The discussion of Biological Resources in the NOP/IS (pp. 24-25) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts upon sensitive species and habitat, and that it may conflict with adopted Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs). The proposed RHT location would abut the Vista del Norte Reserve of the City's Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. The nature reserve property is enrolled as a part of the City's NCCP. The City would prefer the elimination of this site from consideration in the proposed project, but failing that, the DEIR should fully evaluate the biological resource impacts of an LMR site at this location.

7. The discussion of Hazards and Hazardous Materials in the NOP/IS (pp. 28-29) states that the project is likely to involve the handling of hazardous materials in the vicinity of a school. Each of the proposed LMR sites would include a diesel-powered back-up generator. Within a ¼-mile radius of the RHT location are the following schools:

   - Ridgecrest Intermediate School, 28915 Northbay Dr.
   - Peninsula Community Church Preschool, 5640 Crestridge Rd.
   - Ner Tamid Preschool, 5721 Crestridge Rd.

   The DEIR should fully evaluate the hazards and hazardous materials impacts of an LMR site at this location.

8. The discussion of Land Use and Planning in the NOP/IS (p. 32) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts with respect to consistency with local land use and zoning regulations. A substantial portion of the RHT site is zoned "Open Space-Hazard" (OH), as depicted in the enclosed diagram. Although the exact location of the proposed antenna structure and related support equipment on this site has not been identified, they should not be located with the portion of the site zoned OH. The DEIR should fully evaluate the land use and planning impacts of an LMR site at this location.

<u>Federal Aviation Administration Property at the Top of San Pedro Hill (Location ID: SPC)</u>

9. The discussion of Aesthetics in the NOP/IS (p. 21) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts upon scenic vistas and the visual character of the proposed LMR sites and their surroundings. The proposed SPC location would be located at a visually-prominent site at the highest point in the City and on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. There are residential neighborhoods surrounding this site where community aesthetics could be degraded by the addition of an antenna structure and related support equipment. The DEIR should fully evaluate the aesthetic impacts of an LMR site at this location. Furthermore, since there are

existing antenna structures already on this site, the DEIR should fully evaluate the feasibility of co-locating the LMR antennae and support equipment on this existing structures, rather than installing another antenna support structure on the site.

10. The discussion of Hazards and Hazardous Materials in the NOP/IS (pp. 28-29) states that the project is likely to involve the handling of hazardous materials in the vicinity of a school. Each of the proposed LMR sites would include a diesel-powered back-up generator. Within a ¼-mile radius of the SPC location are the following schools:

    - Mira Catalina Elementary School, 30511 Lucania Dr.

    The DEIR should fully evaluate the hazards and hazardous materials impacts of an LMR site at this location.

General Comments

11. The discussion of Geology and Soils in the NOP/IS (pp. 26-27) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts with respect to exposure to risk of landslides and construction on expansive soils. The entire Palos Verdes Peninsula is underlain by soil that is susceptible to landslides and/or may be characterized as expansive. The DEIR should fully evaluate the geology and soils impacts of the proposed project, and should mandate site-specific geologic and geotechnical studies prior to construction.

12. The discussion of Hydrology and Water Quality in the NOP/IS (pp. 30-31) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts with respect to increased runoff from new impermeable surfaces and the possibility of fuel spills. Although the amount of new impermeable area at each LMR site is expected to be negligible, each site will also include outdoor storage of hazardous materials (i.e., a self-contained diesel back-up generator). The DEIR should fully evaluate the hydrology and water quality impacts of the proposed project, and should mandate site-specific conditions for compliance with local, State and Federal water quality regulations prior to construction.

13. The discussions of Noise and Transportation/Traffic in the NOP/IS (pp. 33-34 & 36-37) state that the project is likely to have significant construction-related temporary noise and traffic impacts upon surrounding neighborhoods. The DEIR should fully evaluate the noise and transportation/traffic impacts of the proposed project, and should mandate specific mitigation measures to address them.

14. As an alternative to the proposed project, LA-RICS should consider only installing LMR antennae and support equipment at sites where they can be co-located with existing towers or monopoles, or building-mounted using "stealth" technologies.

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes believes that such an alternative could reduce many of the adverse environmental impacts of the proposed project by minimizing and/or eliminating the need to construct numerous new antenna towers or monopoles.

15. The NOP/IS lists the City of Rancho Palos Verdes as a public agency whose approval is required for this project (p. 15). However, it has been the City's understanding up to this point that LA-RICS intends to avail itself of the County's exemption from local land use and zoning regulations. The City requests clarification of whether or not it will have the authority to review the three (3) proposed LMR sites through its own development review and building permit processes.

16. If the City of Rancho Palos Verdes elects to "opt out" of continued participation in LA-RICS, what (if any) effect would this have upon the inclusion of LMR sites in the City in the LA-RICS system? Would they be removed from the LMR project, or would they still be included whether or not the City continues to participate in LA-RICS?

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this important project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (310) 544-5226 or via e-mail at *kitf@rpv.com*.

Sincerely,

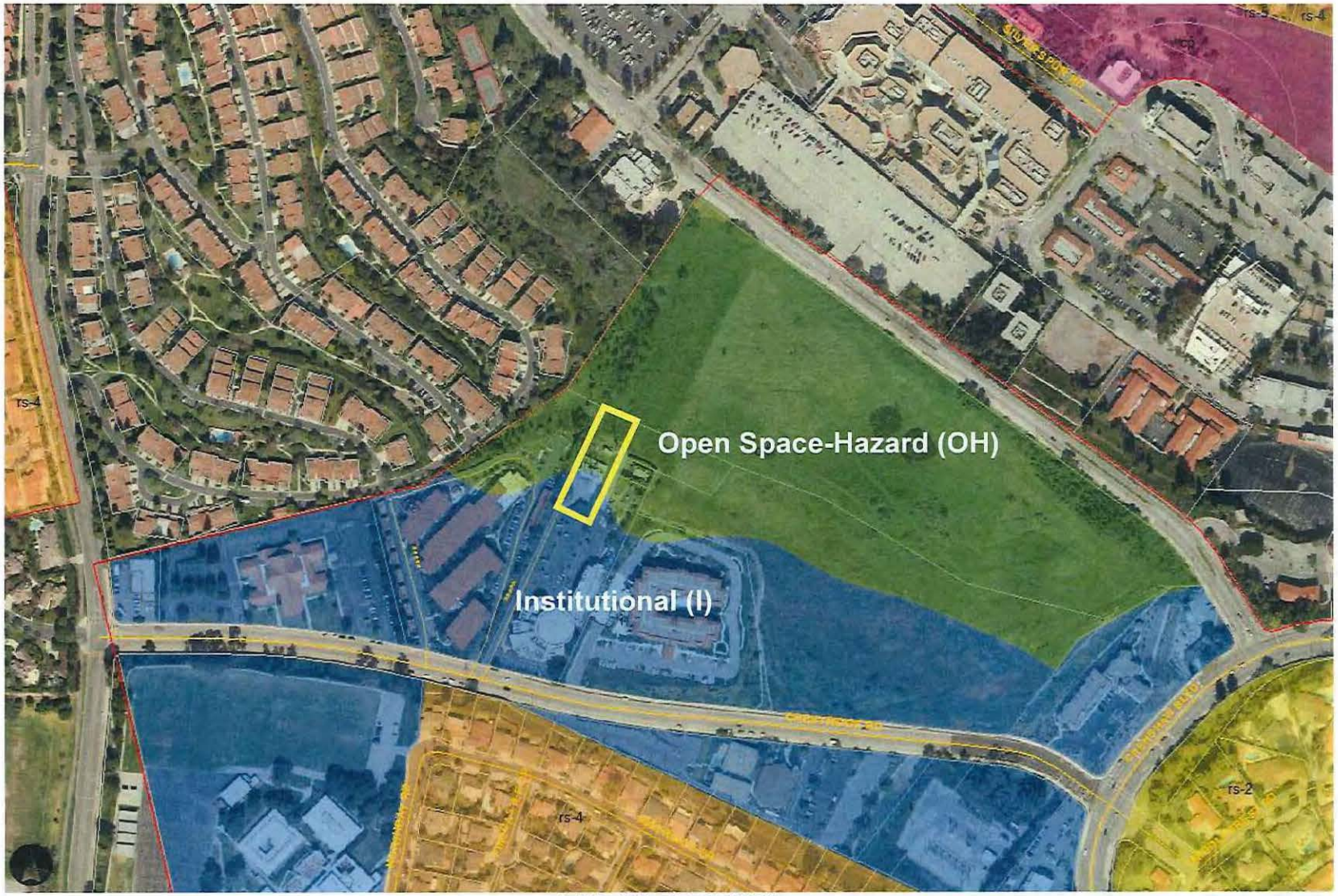
Kit Fox, AICP
Senior Administrative Analyst

enclosures

cc: Mayor Jerry Duhovic and Rancho Palos Verdes City Council
Carolynn Petru, Acting City Manager
Joel Rojas, Community Development Director

M:\Municipal Services\Emergency Communications\LA-RICS\20140923_Yang_ScopingComments.docx

LMR Site ID "PVC"
Surrounding Nature Preserve



LMR Site ID "RHT"
Existing Zoning

LMR Site ID "RHT"
Surrounding Nature Preserve

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
ADMINISTRATION

29 September 2014

Paige M. Peyton, PhD, RPA
Jacobs Engineering
3257 Guasti Rd., Ste. 120
Ontario, CA 91761

SUBJECT: Historic Resources in the Vicinity of Proposed LA-RICS LMR Sites in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes

Dear Dr. Peyton:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is in receipt of your August 29th request for information about historic resources in the vicinity of the three (3) proposed LA-RICS LMR sites in the City. Please see the discussion below of the known historic resources within a ½-mile radius of these sites.

U.S. Coast Guard Property at Point Vicente Park/Civic Center (Location ID: PVC)

The Coast Guard property is surrounded by City property that contains Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall, Point Vicente Park and the Alta Vicente Nature Reserve (part of the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve). The property includes a World War II-era bunker that is still in use by the Coast Guard for communications purposes (see enclosed photos). Adjacent to the bunker are the remains of Battery 240, which once held a 6-inch coast artillery gun (http://www.ftmac.org/Battery240.htm). The bunker and Battery 240 are associated with Fort MacArthur in San Pedro.

Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall occupies structures and facilities that were previously part of Nike Missile Site LA-55 (http://www.ftmac.org/lanike3.htm). The former barracks and offices are occupied by City offices. The former fire station is now a cable television studio. The two (2) missile silos remain intact but unused; their surface is used as a City storage yard. These are all Cold War-era structures that were transferred to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes in 1977.

A roughly 5-acre portion of the surrounding City property is occupied by a farm that is leased to James Hatano. Mr. Hatano is the last of the Japanese truck farmers who once farmed much of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. He returned to the Peninsula to farm again after the Japanese internment during World War II. His farm is the last vestige of commercial agricultural use in the City.

Point Vicente Lighthouse is an active lighthouse dating from 1926 (http://vicentelight.org). It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located within a ½-mile radius of the proposed LMR antenna site.

County "Antenna Farm" at 5741 Crestridge Road (Location ID: RHT)

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is not aware of any historic resources within a ½-mile radius of this proposed LMR site. However, a significant portion of the area within this radius is located

30940 HAWTHORNE BLVD. / RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275-5391 / (310) 544-5205 / FAX (310) 544-5291
WWW.PALOSVERDES.COM/RPV
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

within the jurisdiction of the City of Rolling Hills Estates. We recommend that you contact Rolling Hills Estates for assistance in identifying any potential historic resources within its jurisdiction.

David Wahba, Planning Director
City of Rolling Hills Estates
4045 Palos Verdes Dr. N.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
(310) 377-1577

Federal Aviation Administration Property at the Top of San Pedro Hill (Location ID: SPC)

The FAA site is located at the highest point of the Palos Verdes Peninsula (1,480' above MSL). The FAA site still has active Federal radar installations and commercial and government telecommunication facilities, and was previously the San Pedro Hill Air Force Station (http://wikimapia.org/5220469/San-Pedro-Hill-Air-Force-Radar-Station).

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is not aware of any historic resources on or within a ½-mile radius of this proposed LMR site. However, a significant portion of the area within this radius is located within the jurisdiction of the City of Rolling Hills. We recommend that you contact Rolling Hills for assistance in identifying any potential historic resources within its jurisdiction.

Yolanta Schwartz, Planning Director
City of Rolling Hills
2 Portuguese Bend Rd.
Rolling Hills, CA 90274
(310) 377-1521

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (310) 544-5226 or via e-mail at *kitf@rpv.com.*

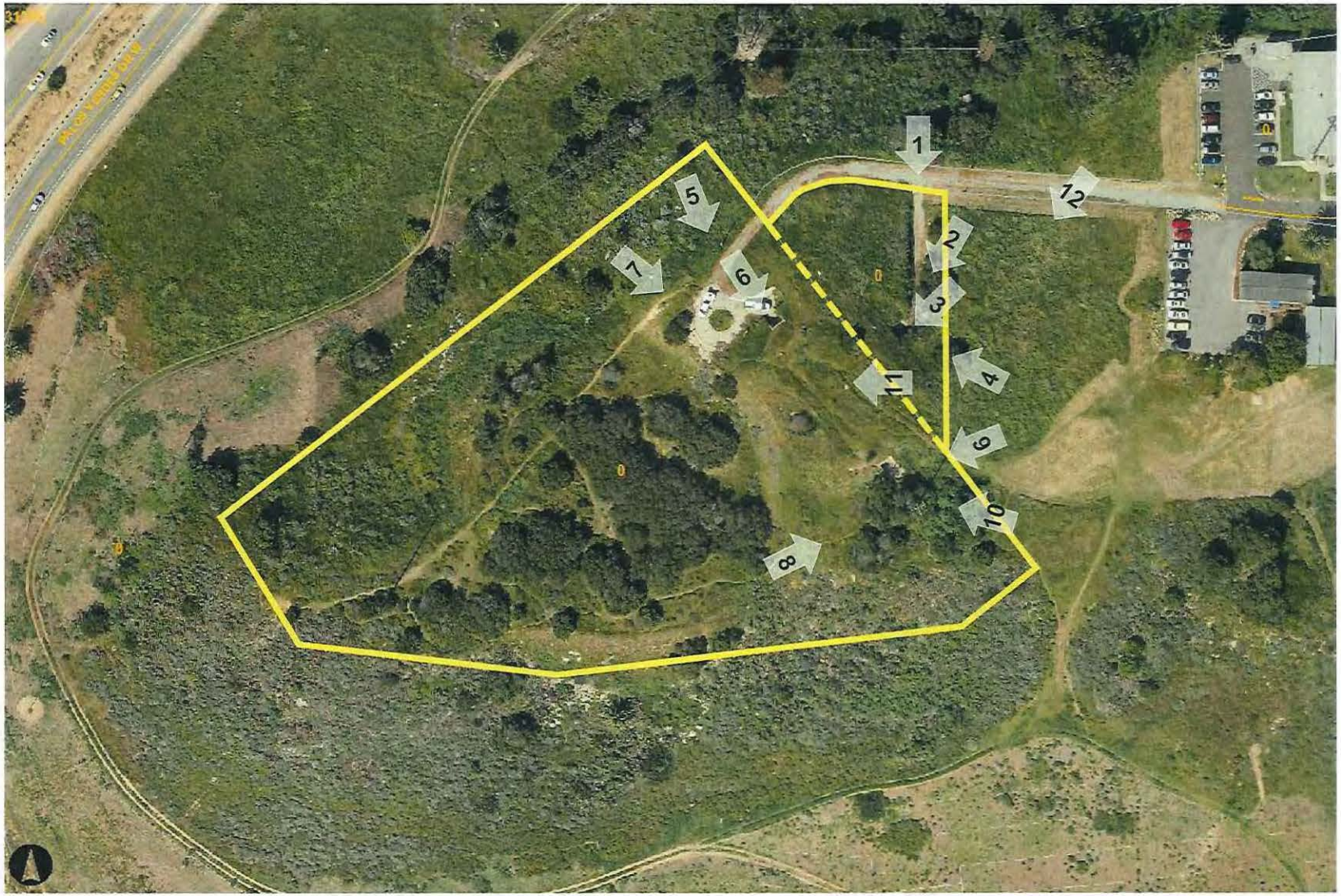
Sincerely,

Kit Fox, AICP
Senior Administrative Analyst

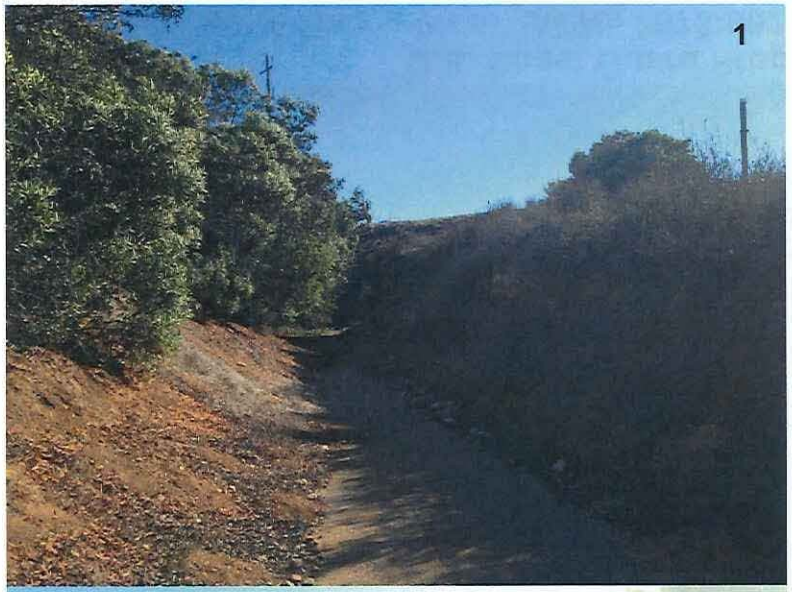
enclosures

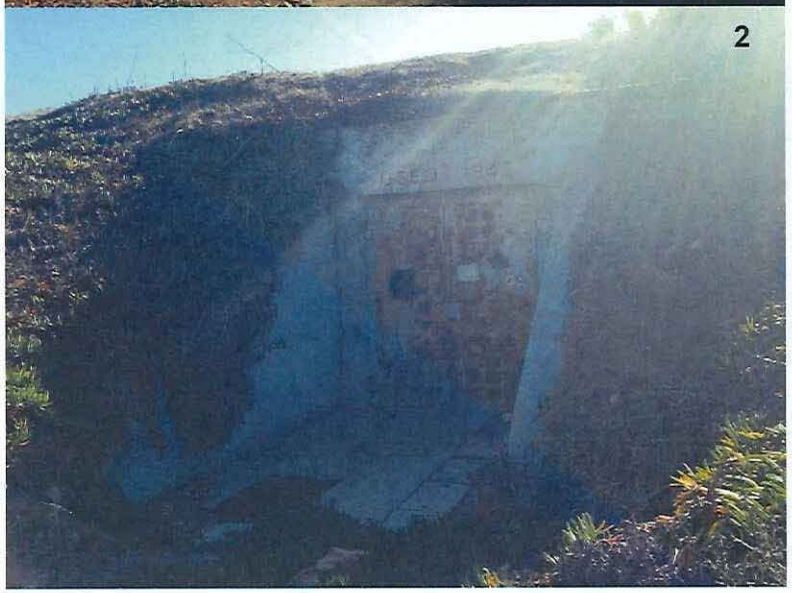
cc: Carolynn Petru, Acting City Manager
Joel Rojas, Director of Community Development

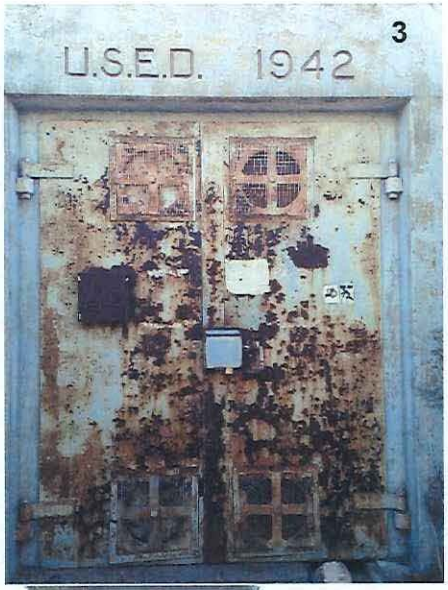
M:\Municipal Services\Emergency Communications\LA-RICS\20140929_Jacobs_HistoricResources.docx



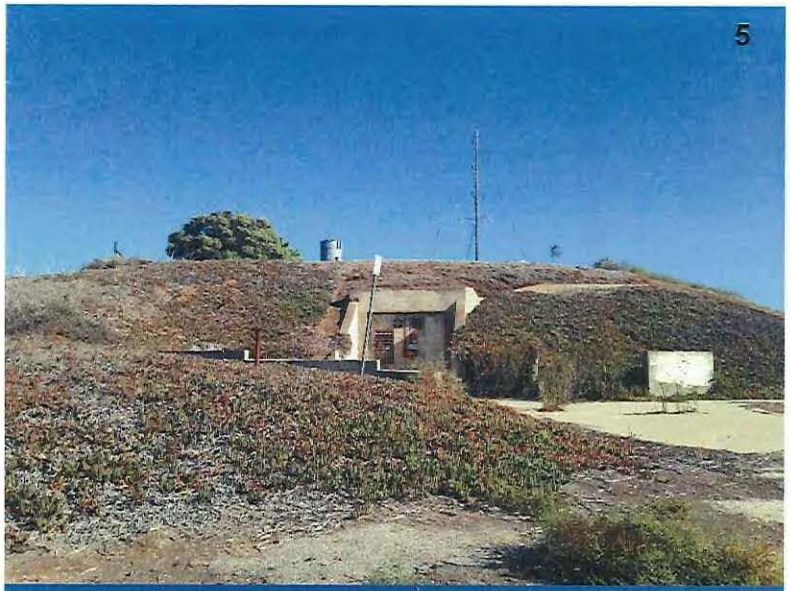
U.S. Coast Guard Property at Upper Point Vicente
APNs 7573-002-906 & 7573-002-912


1

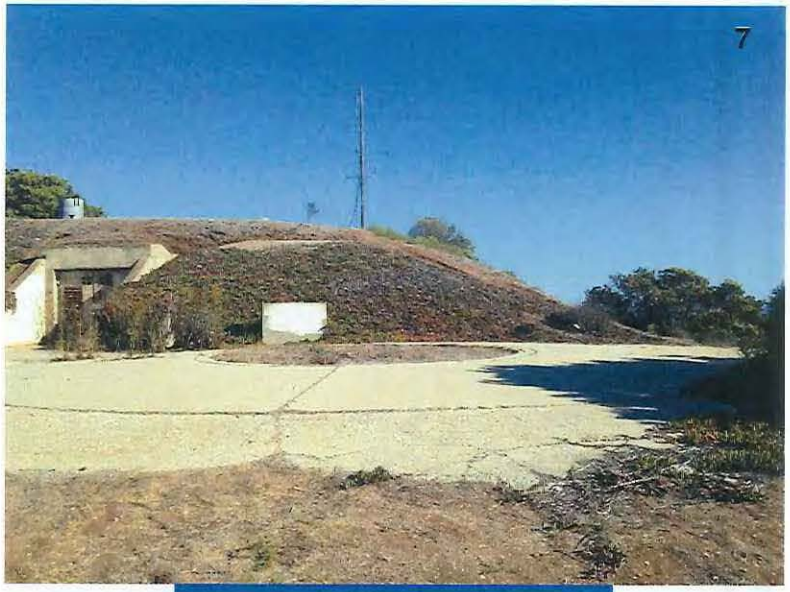

2

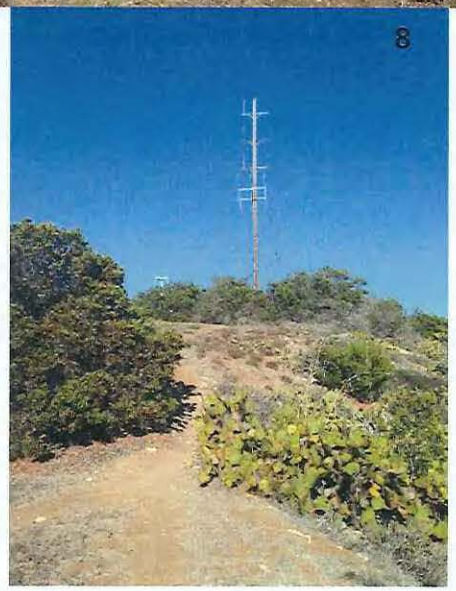

U.S.E.D. 1942
3

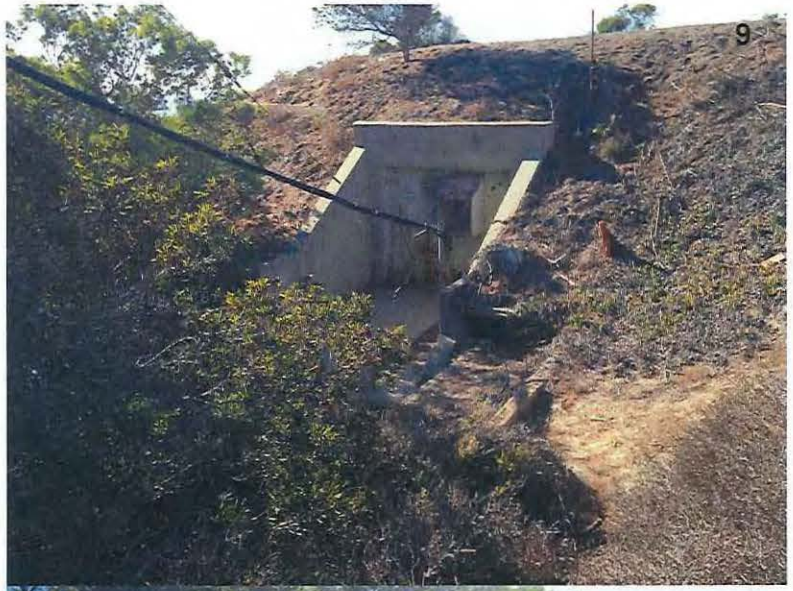
4


5

6


7


8


9

10

11
NO

12

LMR Site PVC and Vicinity
Potential Historic Resources

Dale, Jill

From: Michael Leslie <leslie@caldwell-leslie.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 6:48 PM
To: Dale, Jill; Deshong, Casey
Cc: Mike Bonin; Tricia Keane; John Gregory (john.gregory@lacity.org); FParkRogers@bos.lacounty.gov; sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim.pershing@asm.ca.gov; josh.kurpies@asm.ca.gov; andrea.kune@asm.ca.gov; Senator.Pavley@senate.ca.gov; Senator.Allen@senate.ca.gov; Richard.Bloom@asm.ca.gov; Matt.Dababneh@asm.ca.gov; edelman@smmc.ca.gov; edmiston@smmc.ca.gov; Rebekah.Rodriguez-Lynn@sen.ca.gov; president@hillsidefederation.org; Wendy-Sue Rosen; Tom R. Freeman; Eric Edmunds; John Given (johngiven@me.com); cheadle@smmc.ca.gov; loismark@gmail.com
Subject: RE: FEMA notice under NEPA for LA-RICS: San Vicente Peak Tower
Attachments: 2015-09-14 BHHA LA-RICS ltr.docx; 2015-09-14 ltr attachments.pdf

Dear Ms. Dale,

In response to FEMA's August 13, 2015 letter requesting comments by September 15, 2015 on the programmatic EIS under NEPA for the LA-RICS proposed LMR tower on San Vicente Peak in the Santa Monica Mountains, please review the attached comment letter and exhibits from the Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association (BHHA).

Please make this letter and its exhibits part of the record in this action and be sure BHHA is placed on the notice list for all meetings, studies, notice and other announcements in connection with this project.

Thank you.

Michael R. Leslie, First Vice President

Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association

Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association

Via Email and U.S. Mail

September 14, 2015

Jill S. Dale
Grants Program Sr. Environmental Specialist
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: ***Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Land Mobile Radio (LMR)Project; HSGP 2010-SS-T0-0085(17651); Sub-recipient – City of Los Angeles***

Dear Ms. Dale:

I am the First Vice President of Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association (Brentwood Hills), and am writing on behalf of Brentwood Hills in response to the August 13, 2015 letter from Mr. Alessandro Amaglio from FEMA Region IX. That letter requests comments on the anticipated Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the above-referenced LMR project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and requests comments be submitted by September 15, 2015.

Brentwood Hills represents over 450 homes in the Santa Monica Mountains above Mandeville Canyon Road north of Sunset Blvd in the Brentwood region of Los Angeles. Brentwood Hills has been instrumental in protecting open space, public access and parklands in the Santa Monica Mountains, including the Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park. Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park is part of the Santa Monica National Recreation Area, and includes Westridge Fire Road and the adjacent trails leading to San Vicente Mountain Park, which is a designated location for one of the 180-foot LMR towers proposed by LA-RICS.

The proposed San Vicente Peak LMR tower is not only within—and surrounded by—San Vicente Mountain Park and Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park, but it is also immediately adjacent to Topanga State Park. The Proposed LMR tower is also located within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan.

This proposed 180-foot LMR microwave tower is located in beautiful open space parkland that is heavily used by thousands of hikers, picnickers and mountain bikers each year. The huge tower would be an obvious eyesore for miles throughout not only the adjacent protected parklands, but also throughout West Los Angeles and the west San Fernando Valley. In addition, the tower—with its high-wattage blinking light, many microwave dishes and associated microwave radiation—would have significant environmental impacts not only on the view-sheds and surrounding scenic

parklands, but also on wildlife, birds and the thousands of visitors that visit the park and the viewing platform that is immediately adjacent to the proposed LMR tower.

San Vicente Mountain Park is an historical interpretive site that was a NIKE Missile radar site during the Cold War. There are interpretive signs explaining the history of the Nike Missile system, the radar site and the Cold War, and the park includes picnic areas, hiking trails and a viewing platform immediately adjacent to the proposed 180-foot LMR tower. This viewing platform is heavily used by the public, with unparalleled 360-degree views stretching from Long Beach to the Pacific Ocean, the Santa Susanna and San Gabriel Mountains, Downtown LA and beyond.

In case you are unfamiliar with the location for the proposed San Vicente Peak LMR tower, here are some photographs of this beautiful site. The new 180-foot tall tower would be located next to the existing, much smaller tower next to the viewing platform you can see in these photographs:

For comparison, here is a representation of the 180-foot LMR tower proposed for San Vicente Peak, which is located right next to the viewing platform used by thousands of people each year who visit this park:

Brentwood Hills and many other community organizations feel strongly that San Vicente Peak is an inappropriate location for the huge LMR tower that is proposed for this site. In addition, letters of concern regarding the San Vicente Peak LA-RICS tower have been written by the National Park Service and the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy. Moreover, the Los Angeles City Council recently expressed concern over the San Vicente Peak LMR tower, and asked that an alternative location be explored by LA-RICS. I am attaching those letters of concern for your information.

Brentwood Hills urges that the San Vicente Peak location for the LA-RICS LMR tower be removed from further consideration, as the environmental impacts associated with an LMR tower at this site would be significant, unavoidable, permanent and could not be mitigated. Simply put, this park is an inappropriate location for this type of huge microwave tower.

If the San Vicente Peak location is not immediately dropped from further consideration, Brentwood Hills strongly believes this particular location should be the subject of a separate and robust environmental analysis under both NEPA and CEQA. Given its unique location in the middle of protected state and federal parkland and within the Mulholland scenic corridor, it would be inappropriate for the proposed San Vicente Peak LMR tower to be lumped in with all of the other urban LA-RICS facilities in a single programmatic EIS or EIR.

If the San Vicente Peak LMR tower is not removed from consideration at this time—which Brentwood Hills believes would be the appropriate course of action—Brentwood Hills demands that all alternatives to the proposed San Vicente Peak LMR tower be subject to a meaningful environmental analysis, including the "no tower" alternative, alternative locations outside of protected parklands and sensitive habitat, and much smaller tower configurations.

Brentwood Hills requests that it be placed on the notice list for all public meetings, notices, letters and draft and final environmental reports.

We look forward to your thoughtful consideration of the community's substantial concerns regarding this tower.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL R. LESLIE,
First Vice President, Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association

Attachments

Cc: Councilman Mike Bonin, City of Los Angeles
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, County of Los Angeles
State Senator Fran Pavley
State Assemblyman Richard Bloom
State Assemblyman Matt Dababneh
State Senator Ben Allen
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
National Park Service
Hillside Federation
Interested community groups and homeowners associations
LA-RICS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA–THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., *Governor*

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
RAMIREZ CANYON PARK
5750 RAMIREZ CANYON ROAD
MALIBU, CALIFORNIA 90265
PHONE (310) 589-3200
FAX (310) 589-3207
WWW.SMMC.CA.GOV

February 27, 2012

Bureau of Engineering
Attention: Allan Kawaguchi, Program Manager
City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
1149 South Broadway Street, Suite 820
Los Angeles, California 90015

San Vicente Mountain Park Proposed Communications Tower

Dear Mr. Kawaguchi:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy offers the following comments on the City's proposed San Vicente Communications Tower (proposed tower) located on City land within San Vicente Mountain Park. The Conservancy appreciates the City reaching out to interest groups to explain the proposed project. To date our staff has heard presentations on and had a chance to analyze just the proposed San Vicente tower and not the other proposed new tower locations in the Conservancy Zone including on Verdugo Peak and Mount Lukens. Comments on those additional sites shall be forthcoming. In the interim, the Conservancy is compelled to go on record at the earliest possible date to request that an Environmental Impact Report be required for the project.

It is our understanding that on February 16, 2012 your Department informed the Council offices and the community that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared. The Conservancy applauds that decision and welcomes the opportunity to formally comment on either the Notice of Preparation or the Draft EIR. Please send all future correspondence on the project to Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning at the above address.

The proposed San Vicente Mountain 180-foot-tall tower would be located in the 20,000-acre Big Wild natural area that is completely unbroken by a paved road. The Big Wild contains 10,500-acre Topanga State Park the largest park within a municipal area in the country. Dirt Mulholland Drive and many primary fire road trails meet at the general tower location within San Vicente Mountain Park. This park contains the only public restroom, water fountain, and shade structures for miles. In the not so far future, there may be public trails on the Encino Reservoir property too. In addition San Vicente Mountain

Park with its NIKE missile facility remnants and interpretive displays is a unique public resource in and of itself. In short, there are many significant public viewsheds that could be adversely impacted by the proposed tower.

Public scoping for the subject project should be required because Section 15206(b)(4)(B) of the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines reads as follows:

Section 15206 addresses projects of Statewide, Regional or Areawide Significance.

(b) The lead agency shall determine that a proposed project is of statewide, regional, or areawide significance if the project meets any of the following criteria:

(4) A project for which an EIR and not a negative declaration was prepared which would be located in and would substantially impact the following areas of critical environmental sensitivity:

(B) The Santa Monica Mountains Zone as defined by Section 33105 of the Public Resources Code.

The great value of an EIR is that the alternatives analysis will reveal if there are ways to essentially achieve the project's primary emergency communications objectives through less visually intrusive facilities. Too much is at stake to not fully examine what options are available to decision makers.

Please direct any questions and all future correspondence to Paul Edelman of our staff at the above letterhead address and by phone at 310-589-3200 ext. 128

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Cheadle

ELIZABETH A. CHEADLE
Chairperson

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-4207

In reply refer to:
L76 (SAMO)

July 15, 2014

Frank Monteferrante, PhD
Environmental Compliance Specialist
U.S. Department of Commerce
H.C. Hoover Building, Room 4826
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Dr. Monteferrante:

The National Park Service (NPS) has reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) for the grant awarded to the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Point Powers Authority (LA RICS Authority). The funded project proposes to develop a county-wide microwave broadband network using long-term evolution (LTE) technology to improve shared voice and data communication systems for public safety agencies throughout the greater Los Angeles area. The project proposes installation of telecommunications facilities (TF) at 231 sites, including nine proposed sites within Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), none of which are on NPS-owned parkland. The nine sites are Los Angeles County Fire Station 69 (LACF069), LACF071, LACF072, LACF088, LACF097, LACF099, Zuma Lifeguard Headquarters (LALG300), Lost Hills Malibu Sheriff Station (LHS), and San Vicente Peak (SVP). The TF would consist of a monopole typically 70 feet tall and approximately seven feet in diameter at the base. At sites with height restrictions, monopoles would be as short as 28 feet. Lightning rods would be attached at the apex of each monopole and microwave backhaul antennas and LTE panel antennas would be attached at varying heights along the monopole. Up to four climate-controlled equipment cabinets would house the backhaul equipment, network equipment, and backup batteries at each of the 231 LTE sites.

The National Park Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on the LA-RICS Authority project. We provide comments on the effects of private and public land development in the Santa Monica Mountains at the invitation of federal, state and local units of government with authority to prevent or minimize adverse uses. We offer the following comments. Overall, NPS concurs with the EA's impact level findings for the nine sites within SMMNRA. The proposed sites would not have negative impacts on natural, cultural, scenic, or recreational resources within SMMNRA.

Setting: The EA's description of SMMNRA and the jurisdictional setting of NPS within SMMNRA is accurate when mentioned throughout the document (Example Pages: 3.8-21, 5.4-4).

San Vicente Peak site (SVP): Appendix B (Page 2849) describes the SVP site as owned and managed by City of Los Angeles. There is an existing TF at this site that is operated by the city; however, the site is operated for public visitation by Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), a local parkland management agency. The introduction description of the SVP site should be revised to reflect the parkland use of the property.

The SVP site is the only site of the nine within SMMNRA that is situated directly within parkland, the MRCA-owned Westridge Canyonback Park. The site is also within a scenic corridor, the Mulholland Scenic Parkway (Inner Corridor) as noted in Appendix B, Section 3.8 (Page 2854). Section 3.7, however, notes the site is not within a locally designated scenic corridor. This inconsistency should be corrected. The parkland setting should also be described in Section 3.7 Aesthetic and Visual Resources (Page 2854).

The EA notes that, in visually sensitive areas, the monopole height may be reduced to as short as 28 feet. At this location, the Nike Missile lookout platform is a popular scenic overlook. The lookout platform provides 360-degree views across parkland toward the ocean, as well as toward downtown Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, and SMMNRA to the west. The site is also contiguous with MRCA-owned Westridge Canyonback Park. NPS recommends the proposed monopole be no taller than the height of the platform so that the TF would not obstruct the 360-degree views.

Coastal Commission jurisdiction: Projects in cities and unincorporated county areas without certified Local Coastal Programs are still permitted by both the local jurisdiction and must also obtain a Coastal Development Permit separately from Coastal Commission. Reference to the process on Page 3.7-6 is unclear on the jurisdiction of Coastal Commission, but is correctly indicated in later paragraphs (Pages. 3.8-5, 3.8-6).

Oat Mountain site: Table 4.12-1 (Page 4.12-2) describes the facility on Oat Mountain as being within SMMNRA. Oat Mountain is not within SMMNRA; therefore, please remove the reference to SMMNRA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have questions, please call Melanie Beck at (805)370-2346.

Sincerely,

for David Szymanski
Superintendent

cc: Joe Edmiston, Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Craig Sap, Superintendent, Angeles District, State Department of Parks and Recreation
Clark Stevens, District Manager, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323-663-1031
president@hillsidefederation.org
www.hillsidefederation.org

THE FEDERATION
OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

PRESIDENT
Marian Dodge
CHAIRMAN
Charley Mims
VICE PRESIDENTS
Mark Stratton
Wendy-Sue Rosen
SECRETARY
Donna Messinger
TREASURER
Don Andres

Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners
Bel Air Ridge Association
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Canyon Back Alliance
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Lookout Mountain Alliance
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents Assn.
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Assn.
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HO Assn.
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn.
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS
Shirley Cohen
Jerome C. Daniel
Patricia Bell Hearst
Alan Kishbaugh
Gordon Murley
Polly Ward

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM
Brian Moore

Elizabeth A. Cheadle, Chairperson
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Ramirez Canyon Park
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, CA 90265

February 25, 2012

Re: Item #12(a), San Vicente Peak Telecommunications Tower

Dear Ms. Cheadle:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., established in 1952 and representing thirty-four homeowner and resident associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, supports the request by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy that an Environmental Impact Report be prepared for the San Vicente Peak Telecommunications Tower Project, item #12(a) on the SMMC February 27, 2012 agenda.

On February 1, a presentation on the San Vicente Peak Communications Tower Project was made by UltraSystems, LAFD, LAPD, BOE, and the Mayor's office. Members of the Hillside Federation raised concerns about the impacts of this massive tower on the Mulholland Scenic Parkway, open space, miles of recreational trails, and questioned whether less impactful options could be explored. After full discussion on the issue, the Hillside Federation voted to support a full EIR and that the Mulholland Design Review process be followed in the manner mandated by the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan, which is part of the City of Los Angeles General Plan.

These processes will assure that reasonable alternatives are considered and that the selected alternative meets the Project's safety objectives and will have the minimum impact on the surrounding environment and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge

Marian Dodge, President

cc: Allan Kawaguchi, Bureau of Engineering

Bel Air Skycrest
Property Owners Association
BASPOA
PO Box 260503, Encino, CA 91426

February 25, 2012

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Ramirez Canyon Park
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, CA 90265

Re: San Vicente Peak Project Concerns / Support for Item 12(a) Comment Letter

Dear Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy:

I am writing on behalf of Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association (BASPOA) to express our community's strong support for item 12(a) on Monday night's agenda, a comment letter regarding the proposed San Vicente Peak Communication Tower Project. BASPOA believes that it is really important that this project follow proper Mulholland Design Review Board (MDRB) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-mandated processes, the latter including an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Public Scoping.

The residential community of Bel Air Skycrest lies on the south side of Mulholland, one mile west of the Sepulveda Pass/405 Freeway. This is an extremely high-risk fire area and, due to limited access, is a particularly vulnerable and challenging area in the event of any kind of emergency situation. So our residents are very concerned about the issue of emergency communication that this tower is meant to address. However, we also place a high value on the ecology of our precious Santa Monica Mountains and on the historic and rustic character of the 1971-designated *Mulholland Scenic Parkway*, and we want these protected.

San Vicente Peak is designated as both a Prominent Ridge and a Major Vista Point in the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan. Clearly, the proposed project will have a significant impact on the mountains' and parkway's visual character/aesthetic—and will bring many other impacts as well. But what is still not clear from the PowerPoint presentations and Photoshop mock-ups is the exact nature and degree of all these impacts on the Mulholland Scenic Parkway and surrounding communities, including our own, as well as on the area's various recreational sites and trails.

We need assurance that: 1) the chosen alternative represents the best of all possible solutions, balancing emergency needs with preservation of our city's precious natural resources, and that 2) the impacts of this alternative are being fully analyzed and mitigated. This kind of assurance can only come through full and proper process.

According to the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan, the proposed communication tower must be looked at with regard to:

- maximum preservation and enhancement of the parkway's outstanding and unique scenic features and resources
- compatibility of land uses with the parkway environment
- ensuring that the design and placement of buildings and other improvements preserve, complement and/or enhance views from Mulholland Drive
- preservation of the existing residential character of areas along and adjoining the right-of-way
- preservation of the existing ecological balance
- protection of prominent ridges, streams, and environmentally sensitive areas
- a review process of all projects which are visible from Mulholland Drive to assure their conformance to the purposes and development standards contained in the Specific Plan…

Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association therefore joins with the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Brentwood Residents Coalition, Brentwood Community Council, Save Our Mountains, Inc., Canyon Back Alliance, Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association, Upper Mandeville Canyon Association, Mandeville Canyon Association, and others in requesting **MDRB review**, an **EIR** and **Public Scoping**. We thank the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for addressing this issue at its meeting, and we urge the Conservancy to vote to support sending the staff-recommended letter.

Respectfully,

Lois Becker

Lois Becker, Community Liaison
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association

CANYON BACK ALLIANCE A NON-PROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION
WWW.CANYONBACK.ORG ~ INFO@CANYONBACK.ORG

February 26, 2012

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Ramirez Canyon Park
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265

Re: San Vicente Mountain Peak Proposed Communications Tower

Dear Chairperson Cheadle:

Canyon Back Alliance (CBA) is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to preserving public access to recreational trails in the Santa Monica Mountains. CBA is writing in strong support of the proposed letter concerning the City of Los Angeles' Communications Tower Project, Item No. 12(a) on the February 27, 2012 SMMC Agenda. We ask, however, that the draft letter be modified to request that the City of Los Angeles conduct Public Scoping for the San Vicente Peak Communications Tower Project prior to preparing a draft EIR.

We appreciate that the draft letter calls for an EIR to assess the project's potential impacts and determine whether less intrusive alternatives are available. The environmental sensitivity of this project is clear. The proposed Communications Tower is 180-feet high, painted orange and white, with a 700-watt red light flashing at the rate of 40 times per minute, and would be situated atop San Vicente Peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. The tower would rise from the former Nike Missile Tracking Station above Mandeville Canyon and Encino Hills, at the crossroads and within view of the popular Westridge, Canyonback and Sullivan Canyon public trails, and atop a Prominent Ridge within the inner corridor of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway. These public trails are contiguous with the 20,000 acre urban wilderness park known as the "Big Wild." The adverse aesthetic impacts of a 180-foot tower atop one of the highest mountain peaks in the area, commanding 360-degree views of these protected public trails and the residential areas within the natural scenic environment are obvious. Vicente Peak is also the location of the San Vicente Mountain Park where the SMMC has transformed the Nike Missile Tracking Station into an interpretive center focusing on the history of the Cold War. We applaud SMMC Staff for drafting the proposed letter requesting full environmental review and encourage the Board to approve the letter.

To assure that the environmental review process is effective, we ask that the letter be modified to request that the City also conduct a public scoping meeting. Under CEQA, the lead agency must call at least one "scoping meeting" for a project of "statewide, regional or areawide significance." Public Resources Code, Sec. 21083.9(a); CEQA Guidelines, Section 15082(c)(1). The San Vicente Peak Communications Tower Project is of "statewide, regional, or areawide significance" as those terms are defined under the CEQA Guidelines. Section 15206(b) of the CEQA Guidelines provides that:

> "The lead agency shall determine that a proposed project is of statewide, regional, or areawide significance if the project meets any of the following criteria: . . . (4) A project for which an EIR and not a negative declaration was prepared which would be located in and would substantially impact the following areas of critical environmental sensitivity: . . . (B) The Santa Monica Mountains Zone as defined by Section 33105 of the Public Resources Code."

The San Vicente Peak Communications Tower Project would substantially impact the Santa Monica Mountains Zone by disturbing the natural viewshed from public recreational trails and properties within the Santa Monica Mountains. For that reason, Public Scoping for this project would not only be prudent, it is legally mandated under CEQA.

We therefore ask that the excellent draft letter be modified to include a request that the City conduct Public Scoping prior to preparation of a draft EIR.

Sincerely,

Tom Freeman

Tom Freeman, President

Hoyt, James

From: Drew Steinberg <drew.steinberg@lacity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 4:15 PM
To: Pat Mallon; Odenthal, Chris; Hoyt, James; Rykaczewski, Carl; Nancy Yang
Cc: Patricia Whelan; Ahee Han; Alisa Finsten
Subject: Fwd: Sierra Club Scoping Letter Received (San Vicente Peak)

Below is the emailed letter from Sierra Club re:LA-RICS LMR project, specifically the San Vicente Peak site, in response to FEMA's scoping letter. The other letters will come as attachments in a separate email shortly.

Thank you,

Drew

From: MaryAnn Webster [mailto:mawebster1984@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 3:29 PM
To: Dale, Jill <jill.dale@fema.dhs.gov>; Deshong, Casey <Casey.Deshong@fema.dhs.gov>
Subject: RE: LOS ANGELES rEGIONAL iNTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

SIERRA CLUB LOS ANGELES CA 9/15/15

TO: Jill S. Dale, Grants Program Sr. Environmental Specialist

FROM: Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Sierra Club

RE: Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Land Mobile Radio (LMR) project: HSGP 2010-SS-tp-0085(17651

Dear Ms. Dale,

The Santa Monica Mountains Task Force(SMMTF) of the Sierra Club is sending this letter with our comments and concerns re the above-referenced LMR project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The SMMTF of the Sierra Club has been instrumental for many years in protecting open space, public access and parklands in the Santa Monica Mountains and the Santa Monica National Recreation Area. Our environmental protection area includes San Vicente Mountain Park. It includes Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park, Westridge Fire road and the adjacent trails leading to San Vicente Mountain Park.

San Vicente Mountain Park is a designated location for one of the 180-foot LMR towers proposed by LA-RICS. The proposed tower is within and surrounded by San Vicente Mountain Park and Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park. It is also adjacent to

Topanga State Park and located within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan.

We strongly object to this proposed location.

To install this gigantic 180-foot LMR microwave on San Vicente Peak would be a visual blight for miles in all directions, on protected parklands throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. Significant environmental impacts would be not only on the viewshed and surrounding scenic parklands, but also on wildlife, birds and the year-round visitors to the park and the viewing platform and its unparalleled 360-degreee views in all directions, of Los Angeles, Long Beach, the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Susanna and San Gabriel Mountains. The proposed LMR tower would be located next to the much smaller tower next to the viewing platform-- already in place.

The Santa Monica Mountains Task Force of the Sierra Club, along with many environmental groups, feels strongly that San Vicente Peak is a hugely inappropriate location for constructing and installing this mammoth tower, now and in the future.

The proposed location is within protected state and federal parkland and within the Mulholland scenic corridor.

The suggested location negatively affects protected parklands, visual viewsights, and sensitive habitat.

We request that the San Vicente Peak LMR tower be removed from consideration at this time. We also request that an alternate location be chosen that does not impact parklands, the environment, and the public.

Cordially, Mary Ann Webster, Chair

Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Sierra Club

3435 Wilshire Bl.,(#660) Los Angeles, CA. 90010

The SMMTF is submitting objections to the proposed 180-foot tower that would located in San Vicente Park.

Drew Steinberg
Public Safety
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

o. (213) 978-0686 **c. (213) 221-5300**

Dale, Jill

From: Marian Dodge <president@hillsidefederation.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 10:15 AM
To: Nancy.Yang@LA-RICS.org; Dale, Jill
Subject: LA-RICS LMR on San Vicente Peak
Attachments: pastedGraphic.pdf; LA-RICS San Vicente tower 102715.pdf

Dear Ms. Yang and Ms. Dale,

Attached is a letter from the Hillside Federation opposing the placement of an LA-RICS LMR on San Vicente Peak. Please add it to you file and include the Hillside Federation on any and all notification lists for the project.

Thank you very much.

Best regards,

Marian Dodge, President
Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations
www.hillsidefederation.org

This page intentionally left blank

P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027
www.hillsidefederation.org

RECEIVED
NOV 02 2015
BY:

THE FEDERATION
OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

PRESIDENT
Marian Dodge
CHAIRMAN
Charley Mims
VICE PRESIDENTS
Mark Stratton
Wendy-Sue Rosen
SECRETARIES
Carol Sidlow
John Given
TREASURER
Don Andres

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood
Bel-Air Association
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners
Canyon Back Alliance
CASM-SFV
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Lookout Mountain Alliance
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Rancho Verdugo Estates
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Assn.
Save Coldwater Canyon!
Save Sunset Blvd.
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HO Assn.
Silver Lake Heritage Trust
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn.
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

CHAIRS EMERITI
Shirley Cohen
Jerome C. Daniel
Patricia Bell Hearst
Alan Kishbaugh
Gordon Murley
Steve Twining
CHAIRS IN MEMORIUM
Brian Moore
Polly Ward

Nancy Yang
Project Engineer
LA-RICS
2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200
Monterey Park CA 91754

Jill S. Dale
Grants Program Sr. Environmental Specialist
FEMA
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

October 27, 2015

Re: **RE: *Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Land* Mobile Radio (LMR) Project on San Vicente Peak HSGP 2010-SS-T0-0085(17651); Sub-recipient – City of Los Angeles**

Dear Ms. Yang and Ms. Dale:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., founded in 1952, represents 45 resident and homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains. The Federation's mission is to protect the property and qualify of life of its over 200,000 constituents and to conserve the natural habitat and appearance of the hillside and mountain areas in which they live.

The Hillside Federation strongly objects to the proposed 180-foot LMR microwave tower proposed by LA-RICS for San Vicente Peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. This huge proposed tower would be located right in the middle of San Vicente Mountain Park and Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park, which are both immediately adjacent to Topanga State Park. These parks are key parts of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which is one of the nation's largest wilderness parks located in the heart of a major metropolitan area. As such, these parklands and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area are precious resources that should not be negatively impacted by a huge communications facility of this nature.

San Vicente Peak, the proposed tower location, is located within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan, in the heart of San Vicente Mountain Park. This park is an historical interpretive site that formerly was a NIKE Missile radar site during the Cold War. There are interpretive signs explaining the history of the Nike Missile system, the radar site and the Cold War, and the park includes picnic areas, hiking trails and a viewing platform immediately adjacent to the proposed 180-foot LMR tower. This viewing platform is heavily used by the public, and has unparalleled 360-degree views stretching from Long Beach to the Pacific Ocean and Channel Islands, and from the Santa Monica and Santa Susanna Mountains to the San Gabriel Mountains, Downtown Los Angeles, and beyond.

This huge proposed tower would be an obvious eyesore for miles throughout not only the adjacent protected parklands, but also throughout West Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. In addition, the tower—with its high-wattage blinking lights, many microwave dishes, and associated microwave radiation—would have significant environmental impacts not only on the view-sheds and surrounding scenic parklands, but also on wildlife, birds, and the thousands of visitors that come to the park and use the viewing platform immediately adjacent to the proposed LMR tower.

The Hillside Federation joins many other community organizations strongly opposed to siting such a tower at the San Vicente Peak location. Letters of concern regarding the San Vicente Peak LA-RICS tower have been written by the National Park Service and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Moreover, the Los Angeles City Council recently expressed its concern over the San Vicente Peak LMR tower. As part of the approval to use City sites for the placement of the LA-RICS equipment, the City Council adopted, and the Mayor approved, a motion that the LA-RICS LMR location at San Vicente Peak be re-evaluated and a less intrusive alternative be considered.

The Hillside Federation urges that the San Vicente Peak LA-RICS LMR tower site be removed from further consideration, as the environmental impacts associated with an LMR tower at this site would be significant, unavoidable, permanent, and could not be mitigated. Simply put, given its unique location in the middle of protected state and federal parkland and within the Mulholland Scenic Corridor, San Vicente Mountain Park is an inappropriate location for this type of huge microwave tower and communications facility. Further, it is entirely inappropriate for the proposed San Vicente Peak LMR tower to be lumped in with the other urban LA-RICS facilities in a single Program EIR under CEQA or in a single Programmatic EIS under NEPA.

If the San Vicente Peak LMR tower is not removed from consideration, the location must be the subject of a separate and robust environmental analysis under both NEPA and CEQA. The Federation demands that all feasible alternatives to the proposed San Vicente Peak LMR tower be subject to a meaningful state and federal environmental analysis, including the "no tower" alternative, alternative locations outside of protected parklands and sensitive habitat, and much smaller tower configurations.

Finally, the Hillside Federation requests that it be placed on the notice list for all public meetings, notices, letters, environmental assessment documents, and draft and final environmental reports.

We look forward to your thoughtful consideration of the community's substantial concerns regarding this tower.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge Marian

Marian Dodge

Appendix C-2
Comments and Responses to the Public Draft PEA

This page intentionally left blank

Comment #	Section #	Page #	Commenter	Comment	Response	Notes
1	1.2.1		USFS	Section 1.2.1 – Suggest adding reference to USFWS letter to FEMA of 1/29/16, as part of regulatory background.	Section 1.2.1 describes the existing programmatic environmental compliance framework that FEMA and FCC have previously established outside of the proposed action. This section does not describe the environmental compliance framework developed specifically for this project. As suggested by USFS in a later comment, details about the communication from USFWS to FEMA have been added to Section 4.4 of the FPEA. Section 4.4 is the appropriate location in the PEA to address coordination with USFWS.	
	1.2.1		USFS	Section 1.2.1 - ….Also not clear in this section if it only describes how FEMA, not OFA's would use the document. There could be edits to clarify that 1.2.1 speaks specifically to FEMA, and Section 1.4 for OFA's.	The title of Section 1.2 has been changed to "Programmatic Regulatory Background and Use of This Programmatic Environmental Assessment by FEMA and FCC," to indicate that the subject of the section is specific to FEMA and FCC. Section 1.4 has been edited to describe how the PEA can be used by OFAs.	
	1.2-1.4		USFS	Section 1.2.2, Figure 1.2-1, and Section 1.4 – these sections together seem to indicate there will be some future coordination between FEMA and the OFA's, and a decision at a later time as to who assumes lead for any further NEPA compliance. Based on this information FS understands that lead federal agency for NEPA and other environmental compliance, during OFA permitting process, is not yet determined. Recommend discussion to ensure FEMA and FS have common understanding.	Based on the comments provided by USFS to FEMA in the March 31, 2016, comment letter to the Draft PEA, and on the suggested edits to the text of the Draft PEA provided by USFS, FEMA believes that FEMA and USFS have a common understanding regarding the agencies' mutual goal of complying with NEPA and the other federal environmental regulations in an efficient manner. On the whole, FEMA has edited the Final PEA to match the suggested edits from the USFS; this will allow USFS and other OFAs to use the PEA, thereby streamlining their own NEPA compliance.	
	1.2		USFS	FS offers edits to better clarify and integrate these introductory sections. Statement was added that FS may tier to or adopt the PEA per NEPA regulations.	Most suggested text changes from USFS for Section 1.2 have been incorporated. The specific text suggestion stating, "This may include tiering to or adoption of the PEA by other federal agencies to meet their specific requirements" in Section 1.2.2 has not been included in the Final PEA. Instead, Section 1.2 refers the reader to Section 1.4 for a description of how OFAs may use the PEA.	
4	1.2.1		USFS	Section 1.3 - Suggest adding a sentence for how the MOU with ACOE, NMFS, and USFWS was applied to this project.	The comment applies to bullet text in Section 1.2.1 regarding the 2015 MOU between FEMA Region IX, NMFS, USACE, and USFWS. The MOU and its relevance to the proposed action is discussed at length in Sections 3 and 4. It is mentioned here to introduce the existence of the MOU.	
5			USFS	Section 1.4 – the sentence – "This PEA does not address NEPA regulations specific to other Federal Agencies" would limit FS ability to tier to or adopt the PEA. Suggested rewording has been included, also language added to cover FS requirements other than NEPA by referencing the appropriate EA sections. Other clarifications were added to make this section consistent with 1.2.2. Also added were descriptions of the potential for compensatory mitigation, and geotechnical testing on National Forest System lands.	FEMA incorporated the suggested edits made by USFS, except for edits to the text that specifically described the number of sites on USFS lands. That statement was generalized to allow for the potential for additional sites to be included by the Authority and for FEMA, FCC, and OFAs to have the ability to use the PEA for NEPA compliance. Additionally, FEMA added text to Section 1.4 that described the existing environmental compliance regulatory framework for USFS. This text summarizes information provided by USFS in its suggested edits to other sections of the Draft PEA, and is commensurate to the information regarding FEMA's regulatory framework described in Section 1.2.1.	
6	3.2		USFS	Figure 3.2-2 – layers on the map seem to cut off the geologic hazard data. Revise map so that the entirety of the liquefaction/landslide area can be seen.	The source of data on geologic hazards that was used and that is cited in the PEA is the California Geologic Survey. The data from the California Geological Survey does not generally include federally-administered lands. No other data that include the federally-administered lands with the project area is available at this time.	
7	1.6		USFS	Section 1.6 – minor clarifications to indicate that FEMA and OFA will work together and communicate as necessary on SEA's or further public reviews. FS supports this cooperation through the remainder of the project.	Suggested edits were incorporated into the Final PEA.	
8	3.1		USFS	Land Use/Planning Affected Environment – reference to applicable FS law added, also mention of National Monument designation.	Suggested edits were incorporated, except for some of the suggested text for Section 3.1.2.5. Following the formatting of the PEA, some of the site-specific text suggested for Section 3.1.2.5 was moved to the discussion of environmental consequences in Section 4.1.	
9	3.4		USFS	Section 3.4 – additional reference added to Forest Service MOU for Migratory Bird Executive Order, as well as Forest Service Sensitive Species, a special status applicable only on FS lands.	Suggested edits were incorporated into the Final PEA.	
10	3.7		USFS	Section 3.7.1.5 – added reference to Forest Service Programmatic Agreement with SHPO, which may be an option to satisfy NHPA.	Suggested edits were incorporated into the Final PEA.	
11	3.11		USFS	Section 3.11 – added reference to Scenic Integrity Objectives established in the Forest Service Land Management Plan, and to the Scenery Management System.	Most suggested edits were incorporated into the Final PEA. The following suggested edit was altered to be more programmatic in nature and less site-specific, which follows the programmatic approach throughout the PEA: "All potential project sites are located in areas of high or moderate Scenic Integrity Objective, which is consistent with the assumed scenic sensitivity discussed above." The statement has been revised to: "Many ridgelines and other locations on NFS lands in the project area that are likely to have telecommunication infrastructure are in areas of high or moderate Scenic Integrity Objective, which is consistent with the assumed scenic sensitivity discussed above."	
12	4.1.2.2		USFS	Section 4.1.2.2 – language added to identify potential adverse impact if forest plan standards are not met, but also a justification why impact is not significant, to support FEMA's FONSI. Also added demonstration of consistency with National Monument.	Suggested edits were incorporated into the Final PEA. This paragraph was moved to the end of the subsection, and the term "significant" was changed to "substantially adverse." FEMA typically uses the term "significant" only when making its NEPA findings. Additionally, text was added immediately prior to the USFS-suggested text to describe environmental consequences when activities *would* be consistent with the USFS forest plan; the USFS-suggested text only addresses a situation where the activities would *not* be consistent with the forest plan.	
13	4.4		USFS	Section 4.2-2 – Clarification noted in the ESA Section 7 section based on the USFWS letter from 1/29/16. Critical to FS that the EA correctly note the status of Consultation, which letter stated is not yet complete.	As described above, communications suggested by USFS regarding USFWS' 2016 letter related to Section 7 of the ESA have been incorporated in Section 4.4 of the PEA. FEMA did not accept the suggested edit from USFS here, because the edit—changing "coordination" to "Section 7 Conultation [sic]"—is unnecessary and repetitive in the context of the sentence. Additionally, the suggested edit adds an inaccuracy to the statement because FEMA and USFWS, through the BRR, are coordinating regarding "no effect" determinations, which technically is not a Section 7 consultation, but more commensurate with the concept of "coordination."	
14	4.4		USFS	Section 4.2-2 FS believes there is some potential for bird injury or mortality from collision with towers once they are constructed, especially in areas of higher bird density and diversity such as undeveloped National Forests. Literature suggests this impact can be increased by FAA required marking lights, which are not allowed to use motion sensors in experience of the FS. Information has been added to capture this impact, as well as justification for why it would not be significant.	FEMA notes that the commenter references Section 4.2-2, but applicable suggested edits to the text of the Draft PEA provided by the commenter were to Section 4.4.2.2, General Consequences of Site Types. FEMA believes that the effect described by USFS is specific to new lattice towers and new monopoles. Section 4.4.2.5, New Lattice Towers, of the Draft PEA describes the potential effects to aviary species, and BMPs and conservation measures to minimize those effects. The effects description in this section is similar to the USFS comment, and the USFS citation has been added to the text of this section. FEMA believes that this is the appropriate subsection of Section 4.4 for this impact to be addressed, rather than Section 4.4.2.2, which is a more general impact discussion that can include building mounts and colocation sites where this impact would not occur. Please note, if there are additional effects that are found at a specific project site, a Supplemental Environmental Assessment may be necessary.	
			USFS	Section 4.2-2 FS believes there is some potential for bird injury or mortality from collision with towers once they are constructed, especially in areas of higher bird density and diversity such as undeveloped National Forests. Literature suggests this impact can be increased by FAA required marking lights, which are not allowed to use motion sensors in experience of the FS. Information has been added to capture this impact, as well as justification for why it would not be significant. -Literature sources for lighting effects on bird mortality are: Evans et al., 2007; Eaton, 2003; Erickson et al., 2005; Gehrig et al., 2009; Longcore et al. 2012		
	4.4		USFS	USFWS and USFS MOU regarding EO 13186.	USFS had suggested that text to be added to Section 4.2.2.1, Geotechnical Investigations, regarding the MOU between USFS and USFWS, pursuant to EO 13186. This same statement was also added by FEMA to Section 4.2.2.2, General Consequences of Site Types, because it is FEMA's understanding that this MOU would apply to construction activities at LMR sites on NFS lands.	
15			USFS	Section 4.7.2 – Statement that 106 for OFA's was not addressed in this document was inconsistent with mention of Forest Service PA in Section 3.7.1.5. Changed wording slightly to be consistent and allow future use of FS PA if determined necessary.	Suggested edits were incorporated into the Final PEA.	

Comment #	Section #	Page #	Commenter	Comment	Response	Notes
16			USFS	Section 4.11 – FS views visual impacts in terms of scenic integrity objectives, and based on current information the project may not meet those objectives. Since towers at many FS sites are much taller than existing, information on impacts and mitigation specific to NFS was added.	The text suggested by USFS was edited to match the tone and style of PEA. The text was also moved to the end of Section 4.11.2.5 rather than the middle of the section. The USFS-suggested text was, "There is potential for an adverse impact for sites on National Forest System lands, as new structures may be up to three times taller than existing ones. This may create an adverse impact on visual quality at these sites by further detracting from the scenic values of a natural appearing landscape such that Scenic Integrity Objectives were not met, and may require a forest plan amendment as noted in Section 4.1.2.2. USFS may require tower heights to be reduced, or request design modifications as a condition of approval, which may include specification of certain building materials, all of which are expected to avoid or minimize this impact. If the project still would not meet Scenic Integrity Objectives, USFS may also require mitigation in the form of compensation as defined in NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1508.20 (e)). Further site specific analysis would use the USDA Scenery Management System to determine the specific level of impact and corresponding mitigation."	
			USFS (Continued)		With the exception of potential impacts on NFS lands and proposed new lattice towers or monopoles that are not at antenna farms, the changes to visual quality would not be expected to be adverse, because similar structures are already present. No adverse impact to visual quality would be expected. As stated in the FPEA, additionally analysis would be conducted if the Authority proposes a new lattice tower or monopole that would not be located at an existing antenna farm, with the potential that FEMA would prepare an SEA. To address this scenario and concern described by USFWS, additional text was added to Section 4.11.2.5, "New lattice towers on NFS lands could result in adverse changes to visual quality due to the potential height of the structures. If a landscape has a natural appearance, new towers could detract so much from its scenic values that forest plan Scenic Integrity Objectives would not be met. In such a circumstance, a forest plan amendment, as described in Section 4.1.2.2, would need to be approved by USFS prior to USFS approval for the Authority to construct or operate the specific LMR site. Through its permitting process, USFS may require tower heights to be reduced or request design modifications as conditions of its permit. Design modification could include specification of certain building materials to avoid or minimize this impact. USFS could also require mitigation in the form of compensation as defined in NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1508.20 [e]). For new lattice towers, USFS may require the Authority to prepare a site-specific analysis using the USDA Scenery Management System to determine the specific level of impact and corresponding mitigation. Any additional USFS-specific mitigation, if necessary, would be described, at minimum, in the USFS's NEPA compliance documentation for the pertinent LMR site."	
17			USFS	Appendix B – Suggest highlighting or otherwise clearly indicating in the table which sites are on NFS lands, and which of those on NFS lands are within National Monument, to clearly identify the potential scope of FS involvement in relation to the entire project.	LMR project sites in Appendix B on NFS lands have been highlighted. The text describing the location of these sites in the table of Appendix B indicates when the site is in San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.	
1			City of Glendora	We have been retained as special counsel to the City of Glendora (City) with regard to the LA-RICS proposal to construct communication towers in the Los Angeles region. We wrote to the LA-RICs Project Team on March 5, 2015 and again on February 19, 2016 regarding the potential location of communications towers at three Los Angeles County owned fire stations within City limits has not been sufficiently coordinated with the City. (A copy of these March 5, 2015 and February 19, 2016 letters are attached.) We are pleased to see these communication towers are not among the towers proposed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for this project. We ask that you immediately contact us, City Attorney Wayne Leech, City Manager Chris Jeffers and Planning Director Jeff Kugel if our understanding is incorrect, or if there is a proposal to change this project to include such towers in the City of Glendora as we would strongly object to such a proposal.	The commenter may be referring to another project conducted by LA-RICS (LA-RICS Public Safety Broadband Network) in his reference to the correspondence between the City of Glendora and LA-RICS dated March 5, 2015, and February 19, 2016. The project analyzed in the Draft PEA is the LA-RICS LMR Project for emergency communication facilities. Appendix B of the Draft PEA lists the LMR Project sites that have been considered, including those eliminated and added since the public scoping process. As shown in Appendix B, there are no sites currently proposed in the City of Glendora. The City of Glendora will be informed should a new site be selected in or affecting the City.	
2			City of Glendora	With regard to the project as it is set forth now, we note there are two new towers proposed for Johnstone Peak. (PEA, Appendix B, p B-5, see http://www.la-rics.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/03/LMR-PEA-Appendix-B-Part-2-final_3-3-16.pdf) These are within the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service.	Section 1.4 of the PEA describes the NEPA review process for LMR project sites on lands administered by OFAs. Please note that Section 1.4 has been further refined in the Final PEA to describe the NEPA review process of LMR sites on lands administered by the USFS. Section 4.1.2.2 and 4.11.2.2 have also been modified to describe the analysis process of the LMR sites on lands administered by the USFS.	
3			City of Glendora	These towers would be visible from the City of Glendora, and would potentially interfere with the operation of a communication tower that the City currently maintains there.	With respect to the visibility of the proposed towers from the City of Glendora, Section 4.11.2 of the PEA describes the process for assessing visual impacts of site-specific LMR projects. As noted in Section 4.11.2.5: *If the Authority proposes a new lattice tower that is not at an existing antenna farm, the Authority would determine and document if the site is in an area of high or medium visual sensitivity using the Visual Impact Assessment for Highway Projects by the Federal Highway Administration or other appropriate method. If a new lattice tower would be located in an area with high or medium visual sensitivity, 1) the Authority would eliminate the LMR project site from further consideration; or 2) FEMA would prepare an SEA, as described in Section 1.2 above.* Please note that Sections 4.11.2.5 and 4.11.2.6 have been revised to include the impact analysis of LMR sites on lands administered by the USFS. With respect to interference with the operation of another communication tower, the FCC licensing process would require coordination among frequency licensees and between permit applicant and existing permit holders to avoid electromagnetic interference and physical obstruction.	
4			City of Glendora	Therefore, we ask that more detail be provided about this potential proposal. Specifically, since the original proposal of the LA-RICs project, the national forest in this area has received National Monument status as of October 2014. (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/10/141008-san-gabriel-mountainsnational-monument-conservation/.) We believe additional investigation should be initiated to determine if the additional towers at the Johnstone Peak location are compatible with the new, more protective designation of the National Monument.	Please see Response to the City of Glendora Comment Number 2 for the NEPA review process of LMR Project sites on lands administered by the USFS.	
5			City of Glendora	Furthermore, we are concerned about the potential for interference of operations both by physical obstruction and by electromagnetic interference- of tower proposal on Johnstone Peak with the City's current communications tower. Potential mitigation measures should be included to address potential interference with the existing communications tower infrastructure.	Please see Response to the City of Glendora Comment Number 3 for a description of the FCC review process with respect to the potential for interference of operations both by physical obstruction and by electromagnetic interference of LMR Project sites.	
6			City of Glendora	The LA-RICS project is obviously important to the future of public safety in the local region. Therefore, the City has been a supportive member of the Joint Powers Authority that is implementing this project, and as helpful as possible to you in carrying it out. However, as a member of the JPA we believe the best project possible, with the least damaging environmental impacts possible, should be developed. Please feel free to contact City Attorney Wayne Leech or City Manager Chris Jeffers directly about this matter. We ask that you do so as soon as possible.	Thank you for your comment. Comment Noted.	

Comment #	Section #	Page #	Commenter	Comment	Response	Notes
1			City of Agoura Hills	Land Use and Planning Site AGH is located in the Open Space-Deed Restricted (OS-DR) zone of the City. The proposed facility is not listed as an allowed use in the OS-DR zone.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 4.1.2.2 of the PEA, installation and operation of LMR project sites would comply with applicable local land use plans, policies, and regulations. FEMA would require the Authority to obtain all required approvals, construction permits, right-of-way access permits, or equivalent requirements. So long as the Authority obtains all necessary Federal, State, and local approvals for it to legally construct and operate an LMR site, FEMA considers there to have been no adverse effects to land use.	
2			City of Agoura Hills	Biological Resources The AGH site is set within an area of coastal sage scrub habitat. Please consider the following in order to minimize disturbance to this habitat and general biological resources: • Prior to construction, mark the construction disturbance limits and monitor for adherence to these boundaries. • Avoid areas of coastal sage scrub during construction. • Conduct pre-construction flora and fauna surveys and avoid disturbance to protected sensitive species per state and federal regulations. • Conduct pre-construction bird surveys per federal and state law, and follow appropriate protocol pursuant to federal and state law if bird nests are found within the vicinity of the construction site.	Thank you for your comment. The suggested mitigation measures are similar to the following mitigation measures included in the PEA and listed in Appendix F: - BIO CM – Coastal California Gnatcatcher Protection - BIO CM – Protected Resident Butterfly Protection	
3			City of Agoura Hills	Historic Resources Agoura Hills in general is considered a sensitive archaeological area, and discovery of previously unknown cultural resources is possible. As such, the City typically incorporates mitigation measures in construction projects to have an archaeologist and Native American representative monitor subsurface work, and, in the event human remains are uncovered, follow procedures as outlined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and required under state and federal law. Please ensure that such protective measures are incorporated into the project. These would include something similar to the following:	Section 4.7.2 of the PEA outlines the process of determining potential impact of the LMR project on historical resources and the needed consultation with the Native American Indian Tribes. As noted in Section 4.7.2, application of the Collocation Agreement would occur for building mount and existing lattice tower and monopole project site types, when applicable. The Collocation Agreement outlines criteria for when there would be no effect to historic properties; these are described in Section 3.7.1.3. For all project site types on non-Federal lands outside the purview of the Collocation Agreement, the Nationwide Agreement would be used to ensure compliance with Section 106. The Nationwide Agreement describes the process and criteria for the Authority and FCC to identify and evaluate historic properties (including National Historic Landmarks), assess the effects of the activity to historic properties, and consult with the SHPO and other stakeholders. Criteria include the methods for identifying the APE, identifying and evaluating historic properties in the APE, and assessing the effects of the Proposed Action on historic properties. Additionally, the Nationwide Agreement describes the process that the Authority and FCC would follow to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any identified adverse effects to historic properties and thus resolve the adverse effects. In addition, FCC's environmental rules require that sites subject to Section 106 review also require submittal through the Tower Construction Notification System to Native American Tribal Nations expressing interest in the area and that consultation with specific Tribes will be undertaken on a site by site basis. In relation to the process of that would occur if human remains are discovered during site construction, as stated in Section 1.2.2, FEMA will make it a condition of its grant for the Authority to demonstrate compliance with all applicalbe Federal, State, and local laws. This condition would apply to the State laws related to the discovery of human remains.	
			City of Agoura Hills (Continued)	Monitoring of all project related ground disturbing activities of sediments that appear to be in a primary context shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor qualified to identify Chumash and Gabrieleno resources approved by the City Planning Department. Archaeological monitoring shall be performed under the direction of an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (NPS 1983). Monitoring is required until excavation is complete or until a soil change to a culturally sterile formation is achieved, to be determined by the archaeologist. The archaeologist may reduce or stop monitoring depending on observed conditions. If archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the City Planning Department shall be notified immediately, and work shall stop within a 100-foot radius until the archaeologist has assessed the nature, extent, and potential significance of any remains pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act {CEQA). In the event such resources are determined to be significant, appropriate actions are to be determined by the archaeologist consistent with CEQA {PRC Section 21083.2) and the City General Plan, in consultation with the City Planning Department.		
			City of Agoura Hills (Continued)	If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbances shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings regarding origin and disposition pursuant to the Public Resources Code Section 5097 .98. If human remains are unearthed, the developer/contractor shall contact the City Planning Department and County Coroner immediately. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the Coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC will then identify the person(s) though to be the Most Likely Descendent (MLD) of the deceased Native American, who will then help determine what course of action should be taken in dealing with the remains. If an archaeologist and/or a Native American representative is needed to assessed the remains and determine a course of action, all such fees and expenses shall be the responsibility of the developer/contractor and not the City.		
4			City of Agoura Hills	Noise Please analyze potential noise impacts from ongoing operation of the AGH site in light of the City of Agoura Hills noise standards, as outlined in the Municipal Code (Section 9656 et. seq.) and City of Agoura Hills General Plan 2035 (2010). Specifically, see Table N-1 (Noise/Land Use Compatibility Matrix) and Table N-2 (lnterior/E□erior Noise Standards) of the General Plan. The allowed hours of construction noise pursuant to the Municipal Code are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the weekdays and on Saturdays. We request that these hours be strictly adhered to, given that the access road to the site begins in a single-family residential neighborhood, and driveway entrance is located specifically between two residences.	Section 4.10.2.2 - Operation of the PEA describes the potential noise impacts associated with operations of the LMR Project. As noted in the PEA, the main potential noise sources associated with operations at each site would be the hum from some pieces of communications equipment, the occasional use of emergency generators, routine facilities maintenance, and HVAC systems for the equipment shelters. The analysis conservatively assumes that noise emission from diesel generators would be approximately 52 dBA at 50 feet and noise emissions from sheltered equipment would be 49 dBA at 50 feet. Therefore, noise emissions from diesel generatrs or equipment shelters would not result in an adverse impact, and no further analysis would be warranted. With respect to construction noise, Section 4.10.2.2 - Construction provides a description of the noise impacts associated with the LMR project.	
5			City of Agoura Hills	Visual Quality We suggest that the AGH site be considered visually sensitive given its location on top of a prominent hill that can be seen from many points in the City, including residential neighborhoods. In particular, the site is situated on a primary ridgeline, the Morrison Highlands, as identified on Figure NR-1 Open Space Resources in the Agoura Hills General Plan 2035 (2010). General Plan Goal NR-2 Visual Resources is for the "preservation of significant visual resources as important quality of life amenities for residents, and as assets for commerce, recreation and tourism." General Plan Policy NR-2.3 Protect Ridgelines states, "Maintain the community's primary and secondary ridgelines." Additionally, the site is designated in the General Plan, and zoned, as Open Space-Deed Restricted (OS-DR). The purpose of the OS-DR zone, in part, is to preserve natural features and open space (Agoura Hills Municipal Code - AHMC Section 9490 et. seq.). □	Section 4.11.2 - Visual Quality, describes the potential visual impacts associated with the LMR project and defines the criteria of site-specific LMR projects that would require further visual impact analysis and NEPA review. Please note, this section has been modified to describe the analysis process of the LMR sites that would be on lands adminsitered by the U.S. Forest Service.	

Comment #	Section #	Page #	Commenter	Comment	Response	Notes
			City of Agoura Hills (Continued)	While we acknowledge that the AGH site is currently the location of several telecommunications-type facilities, the proposed LMR facility would add substantially more structures and a taller tower than what currently exists on the site, resulting in potentially significant aesthetic impacts from an increase in intensity of development, even though the AGH facilities may not block views. The AGH monopole could reach 85 feet tall, compared to the estimated maximum 60-foot high existing tower at the same location. The AGH site, with the exception of some existing telecommunications equipment, is situated on a hilltop of the Santa Monica Mountains, in a natural area of the City where there is no hillside development. Single-family residential development is located below the hill, in the flatter portions of the City. We suggest the potential impacts to visual resources from the proposed LMR facilities located in this visually sensitive area be analyzed further.		
1			City of Beverly Hills	The City is concerned about the use of the Walker drive site in the City of Beverly Hills for the LA RICS Facility due to the fact that it is a relatively small site and there are a number of other facilities already occupying the space.	Thank you for your comment. Please see Section 1.0 of the PEA that describes the selection criteria of the potential LMR project sites. In addition, Section 1.2.2 describes the environmental review process that would be conducted at the site-specific level and the criteria for conducting further analysis and NEPA review.	
2			City of Beverly Hills	Further, the City would like to reserve additional space existing on the site for the expansion of City infrastructure. For this reason, the City opposes the use of this site for the LA RICS LMR Project.	Thank you for your comment. Comment Noted.	
3			City of Beverly Hills	TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC The City has concerns about construction equipment in the Trousdale Estates area. Should the Project move forward at the Walker Drive Site please consult with the City's Transportation Division to ensure that all hauling and Trousdale Construction regulations are being followed. Please call 310.285.1141 for more information.	Comment noted. As noted in Section 4.8.2.2 - Infrastucture, for the sites that would be selected, FEMA would require the Authority to prepare a traffic plan, if needed by the jurisdiction with authority on the selected site. In addition, as noted in Section 4.1, FEMA would require the Authority to obtain any applicable right-of-way permits for the LMR project sites prior to construction.	
4			City of Beverly Hills	NOISE The City continues to have concerns about the potential noise impacts resulting from the construction of the proposed Project. The Trousdale Estates area is a residential neighborhood and construction noise resulting from excavators, trucks and jackhammers would be disruptive to the residents of the neighborhood.	As described in Section 4.10.2.2 - Noise, General Consequences of Site Types, sensitive receivers would likely be impacted by short-term noise exposures exceeding the 55-dBA Leq criterion within 725 feet from the LMR project sites in rural and remote areas and 1,425 feet from the LMR project sites within urban areas. These exposure levels may be reduced at some sites by factors including equipment being operating for shorter durations than those modeled and attenuation of noise by existing site noise barriers (e.g., buildings and walls).	
5			City of Beverly Hills	SAFETY AND SECURITY The City of Beverly Hills Police Department is currently working on a plan to increase security measures and limit access to the Walker Drive site. The addition of equipment on this site is of particular concern to the City due to the fact that it may increase the need for vendors or maintenance teams to access the site.	Comment noted. As noted in Section 4.1.2.2 FEMA would require the Authority to comply with applicable local land use plans, policies, and regulations. FEMA would require the Authority to obtain all required approvals, construction permits, right-of-way access permits, or equivalent requirements. So long as the Authority obtains all necessary federal, state, and local approvals for it to legally construct and operate an LMR site, FEMA considers that there have been no adverse effects to safety and security.	
6			City of Beverly Hills	GEOLOGY AND SOILS The City has concerns regarding ground stability at the proposed project site due to the fact that it is located in a potential landslide zone area as designated by the California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey.	As noted in Section 4.2.2.2 - Geology and Soils, General Consequence of Site Types, FEMA would require the Authority to obtain construction permits for LMR project sites. State and/or local planning departments issuing the construction permits would require that potential unstable geologic and soil conditions be evaluated and mitigated as necessary and that all structures meet current CBC standards prior to issuance of a construction permit. So long as the Authority obtains all necessary federal, state, and local approvals for it to legally construct and operate an LMR site, FEMA considers that there have been no adverse effects to geology and soils.	
7			City of Beverly Hills	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS The City of Beverly Hills is opposed to the introduction of hazardous materials (the proposed diesel fuel tank) on the Walker Drive site as it is located in a residential neighborhood.	As discussed in Section 4.5.2.2 - Human Health and Safety, General Consequences of Site Types, the use of hazardous materials and management of wastes is required to occur in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations identified in Section 3.5.1.	
8			City of Beverly Hills	AESTHETICS The City is concerned about the potential aesthetic impacts that the Project may have on the surrounding neighborhood. The extension of the existing tower at the Walker Drive site could negatively impact the views from the surrounding residential properties.	As noted in Section 1.2, the PEA document is intended as a programmatic assessment under which subsequent analysis can be prepared, if necessary, for individual LMR sites, in order to implement the proposed LMR project in compliance with CEQ regulations at 40 CFR §§ 1500.4(i), 1502.4, and 1502.20. Section 4.11.2 - Visual Quality, describes the potential visual impacts associated with the LMR project and defines the criteria of site-specific LMR projects that would require further visual impact analysis and NEPA review.	
9			City of Beverly Hills	Further, the City is concerned about the proposed red or white LED lamps that may be installed as part of the project, as well as the proposed exterior security lighting on the 600 square foot equipment shelter. Lighting of this nature is incompatible with the residential neighborhood surrounding the Project site.	Comment noted. As described in Section 2.2.4, continuous night security lighting would be required in urban locations. New equipment shelters would generally require exterior security lighting equivalent to a 100-watt light bulb. In addition, new lattice towers and monopoles would be lighted and/or marked to be consistent with Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular, AC 70/7460-1L Obstruction Marking and Lighting, dated December 4, 2015, for visibility to aircraft based on proposed structure height and location. As stated in Section 4.1.2.2, FEMA would require the Authority to review each LMR project site description against other applicable local land use plans and local zoning ordinances to analyze potential inconsistencies for purposes of identifying any physical environmental impacts, and construction would not occur without required approvals, construction permits, right-of-way access permits, or equivalent requirements.	
10			City of Beverly Hills	CULTURAL RESOURCES As a telecommunications project that involves the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Section 106 review is required to study the impact on historic and cultural resources. Please identify if a Section 106 review has been completed, pursuant to the programmatic agreement. As an interested party, please provide us with a copy of the report.	Please see Sections 3.7 and 4.7 - Historic Properties that describe the affected environment, regulatory framework, and impact analysis of the LMR project. The analysis under Sections 3.7 and 4.7 describes FEMA's compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA based on the three Programmatic Agreements (PAs) and one Program Comment. The discussion in Section 4.7 describes the LMR activities for which each of the PAs and Program Comments would apply. The discussion also describes the coordination with SHPO for the LMR project sites in compliance with Section 106. The Programmatic Agreements and Program Comments have been added to Appendix G of the PEA. In addition, Appendix A includes copies of all the correspondence between FEMA and SHPO regarding the LMR project. The Authority will provide the City of Beverly Hills copies of the Section 106 review documents for sites that would be selected for implementation of the LMR project and are within the City of Beverly Hills.	
1			City of Rancho Palos Verdes	As discussed in the enclosed comments that the City recently submitted on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for this project, we remain concerned about the proposed RHT site with respect to aesthetics, biological resource impacts, and land use and planning consistency. The DPEA concludes that the project: • Will have no adverse aesthetic impacts upon residents whose homes overlook the site because it is already developed as an antenna farm; • Will have no adverse impacts upon biological resources within the City's adjacent Vista del Norte Nature Reserve because construction will be required to comply with project-wide best-management practices (BMPs); and, • Will not be inconsistent with the Open Space-Hazard (OH) designations that apply to the property under the Rancho Palos Verdes General Plan and the Rancho Palos Verdes Zoning Code because LA-RICS is not legally obligated to abide by local land use and zoning regulations.	As noted in Section 1.2, the PEA document is intended as a programmatic assessment under which subsequent analysis can be prepared, if necessary, for individual LMR sites, in order to implement the proposed LMR project in compliance with CEQ regulations at 40 CFR §§ 1500.4(i), 1502.4, and 1502.20. Section 4.11.2 - Visual Quality, describes the potential visual impacts associated with the LMR project and defines the criteria of site-specific LMR projects that would require further visual impact analysis and NEPA review. With respect to potential impacts on biological resources, as described in Section 4.4.2, the biological resources report prepared for the LMR project includes conservation measures to ensure avoidance or minimization of potential effects to listed species and their critical habitat, and FEMA would require that the Authority implement these measures. In addition, FEMA would require the Authority to implement site-appropriate BMPs identified in Appendix D of the PEA. These BMPs would be applied in addition to the identified conservation measures and may be superseded by higher or more stringent standards required by other Federal, State, or local government agencies issuing a permit, license, or approval for the project.	
2			City of Rancho Palos Verdes	The City respectfully disagrees that the assessment of these environment impacts in the DPEA justifies the conclusions that have been reached.	As described in Section 1.2, the PEA document is intended as a programmatic assessment of the LMR project under which subsequent analysis can be prepared, if necessary, for individual LMR project sites.	
3			City of Rancho Palos Verdes	We believe that LA-RICS public outreach efforts to advise surrounding residents of the potential effects of this proposal have been inadequate.	Section 1.6, Public Participation Process, describes the public outreach efforts conducted as part of the NEPA review process and documents the comments received as part of this effort. The section also describes how socping comments have been addressed. As noted in Section 1.6, scoping letters were sent to agencies and interested parties including jurisdictional entities that own the land on which a site was proposed, entities that may issue permits for project sites, and entities that requested the opportunity to be apprised of the project during scoping as well as through public outreach and coordination efforts.	

Comment #	Section #	Page #	Commenter	Comment	Response	Notes
4			City of Rancho Palos Verdes	We remain concerned that project-wide BMPs will not necessarily address the effects of this project upon sensitive habitats and species in the City's adjacent nature reserve.	As noted in Section 4.4.2, in addition to project-wide BMPs, site-specific BMPs have been identified as needed and are presented in Appendix D. In addition, as noted in Section 1.2, the PEA document is intended as a programmatic assessment of the LMR project under which subsequent analysis can be prepared, if necessary, for individual LMR project sites.	
5			City of Rancho Palos Verdes	We also do not find LA-RICS' exemption from local l regulation to be compelling or convincing evidence of the consistency of the project with local land use and zoning.	FEMA is aware of the regulatory land use exemption available to the Authority, which is described in Sections 3.1 and 4.1 of the Draft PEA. As described in Section 4.1.2.2, FEMA would require the Authority to obtain all required approvals, construction permits, right-of-way access permits, or equivalent requirements. So long as the Authority obtains all necessary federal, state, and local approvals for it to legally construct and operate an LMR site, FEMA considers that there have been no adverse effects to land use. To clarify the text of the PEA, FEMA has removed the sentence in Section 4.1.2.2 of the Draft PEA stating, “No further analysis is required by FEMA for determination of consistency with local land use plans, policies, or regulations.”	

CITY OF
AGOURA HILLS
"Gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area"

April 4, 2016

Jill Dale
Senior Environmental Specialist
Environmental and Historic Preservation Office
FEMA Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

SUBJECT: PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM LAND MOBILE RADIO PROJECT

Dear Ms. Dale:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Joint Powers Authority Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project, dated March 2016. We understand that the PEA for the LA-RICS LMR Project addresses all 90 proposed LMR facility sites, and does not analyze each proposed site individually. The PEA notes on page 1-5:

> *Under the CEQ regulations, Federal agencies are encouraged to tier analysis to eliminate repetitive discussions and focus on issues "ripe for decision" (40 CFR 1502.20). This document is intended as a programmatic assessment under which subsequent analysis can be prepared, if necessary, in order to implement the proposed LMR project.*
>
> *If the level of analysis and findings of a proposed activity at an LMR project site are fully and accurately described in this PEA, FEMA would document this determination in its administrative record via a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC), and no additional public or agency noticing would be required to obtain NEPA compliance. If additional analysis is required to determine whether impacts and mitigation measures have been adequately addressed and identified in this PEA, FEMA would request additional site-specific information to determine if the conclusions of this PEA are met. A REC would be prepared if the additional site-specific information to determine if the conclusions of this PEA are met. A REC would be prepared if the additional site-specific information identifies different impacts or mitigation measures than those identified in this PEA, then a tiered site-specific supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) would be required. It is expected that tiered SEAs developed for*

30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301-2583 • Telephone (818) 597-7300 • Fax (818) 597-7352
e-mail: ci.agoura-hills.ca.us

> *the LMR project would focus on issues unique to the specific site or activity elements that generate impacts not analyzed and described in this PEA.*
>
> *If the activities of a proposed LMR site are not analyzed in this PEA, and FEMA determines to potentially proceed with this LMR project site, FEMA would prepare a stand-alone EA for the LMR site. If FEMA concludes that activities under an LMR project site have the potential to result in a significant environmental impact and determines that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) cannot be issued, and FEMA determines to potentially proceed with this LMR project site, FEMA would issue a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.*

One of the proposed LMR sites is referred to as "AGH" by LA-RICS, and is within the City of Agoura Hills, on private property. Specifically, the site is located at Kimberly Peak, off an unnamed road, near Kimberly Drive in the Morrison Ranch area of the City. Based on information provided by LA-RICS, we understand that the proposed improvements at this site include the installation of up to 27 whip antennas (each up to 15 feet long) and up to five (5) microwave antennas (each two (2) to six (6) feet in diameter) on a new 70-foot tall, 6.5-foot diameter monopole, with an additional lightning rod of 15 feet high, for a total 85 foot-tall facility. If tower obstruction lighting is required, it may include red or white LED lamps, either steady or flashing, on the monopole. Either an existing equipment shelter at the site may be used, or a new 600 square-foot shelter, either prefabricated or of concrete masonry unit – CMU, installed on a concrete slab. Exterior security lighting equivalent to one (1) 100-watt bulb would be installed. A diesel emergency generator on a 200-square-foot slab would be constructed and enclosed within a block wall, with a 1,500 gallon belly internal fuel tank integrated into the generator. About 800 feet of chain-link fence up to 12 feet in height is proposed around the facility. The depth of excavation is 36 feet for a drilled caisson for the monopole. In total, an area of 5,000 square feet would be disturbed to install the facilities, with permanent disturbance to a 3,000-square foot area.

We would appreciate if you would consider the following items in preparation of further environmental documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the proposed "AGH" site, and/or in any conditions or requirements that are imposed on the facility and construction at the site.

<u>Land Use and Planning</u>

Site AGH is located in the Open Space-Deed Restricted (OS-DR) zone of the City. The proposed facility is not listed as an allowed use in the OS-DR zone.

Biological Resources

The AGH site is set within an area of coastal sage scrub habitat. Please consider the following in order to minimize disturbance to this habitat and general biological resources:

- Prior to construction, mark the construction disturbance limits and monitor for adherence to these boundaries.
- Avoid areas of coastal sage scrub during construction.
- Conduct pre-construction flora and fauna surveys and avoid disturbance to protected sensitive species per state and federal regulations.
- Conduct pre-construction bird surveys per federal and state law, and follow appropriate protocol pursuant to federal and state law if bird nests are found within the vicinity of the construction site.

Historic Resources

Agoura Hills in general is considered a sensitive archaeological area, and discovery of previously unknown cultural resources is possible. As such, the City typically incorporates mitigation measures in construction projects to have an archaeologist and Native American representative monitor subsurface work, and, in the event human remains are uncovered, follow procedures as outlined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and required under state and federal law. Please ensure that such protective measures are incorporated into the project. These would include something similar to the following:

- Monitoring of all project related ground disturbing activities of sediments that appear to be in a primary context shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor qualified to identify Chumash and Gabrieleno resources approved by the City Planning Department. Archaeological monitoring shall be performed under the direction of an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (NPS 1983). Monitoring is required until excavation is complete or until a soil change to a culturally sterile formation is achieved, to be determined by the archaeologist. The archaeologist may reduce or stop monitoring depending on observed conditions. If archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the City Planning Department shall be notified immediately, and work shall stop within a 100-foot radius until the archaeologist has assessed the nature, extent, and potential significance of any remains pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In the event such resources are determined to be significant, appropriate actions are to be determined by the archaeologist consistent with CEQA (PRC Section 21083.2) and the City General Plan, in consultation with the City Planning Department.

- If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbances shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings regarding origin and disposition pursuant to the Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If human remains are unearthed, the developer/contractor shall contact the City Planning Department and County Coroner immediately. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the Coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC will then identify the person(s) though to be the Most Likely Descendent (MLD) of the deceased Native American, who will then help determine what course of action should be taken in dealing with the remains. If an archaeologist and/or a Native American representative is needed to assessed the remains and determine a course of action, all such fees and expenses shall be the responsibility of the developer/contractor and not the City.

Noise

Please analyze potential noise impacts from ongoing operation of the AGH site in light of the City of Agoura Hills noise standards, as outlined in the Municipal Code (Section 9656 *et. seq.*) and City of Agoura Hills General Plan 2035 (2010). Specifically, see Table N-1 (Noise/Land Use Compatibility Matrix) and Table N-2 (Interior/Exterior Noise Standards) of the General Plan.

The allowed hours of construction noise pursuant to the Municipal Code are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the weekdays and on Saturdays. We request that these hours be strictly adhered to, given that the access road to the site begins in a single-family residential neighborhood, and driveway entrance is located specifically between two residences.

Visual Quality

We suggest that the AGH site be considered visually sensitive given its location on top of a prominent hill that can be seen from many points in the City, including residential neighborhoods. In particular, the site is situated on a primary ridgeline, the Morrison Highlands, as identified on Figure NR-1 Open Space Resources in the Agoura Hills General Plan 2035 (2010). General Plan Goal NR-2 Visual Resources is for the "preservation of significant visual resources as important quality of life amenities for residents, and as assets for commerce, recreation and tourism." General Plan Policy NR-2.3 Protect Ridgelines states, "Maintain the community's primary and secondary ridgelines." Additionally, the site is designated in the General Plan, and zoned, as Open Space-Deed Restricted (OS-DR). The purpose of the OS-DR zone, in part, is to preserve natural features and open space (Agoura Hills Municipal Code – AHMC Section 9490 et. seq.).

While we acknowledge that the AGH site is currently the location of several telecommunications-type facilities, the proposed LMR facility would add substantially more structures and a taller tower than what currently exists on the site, resulting in potentially significant aesthetic impacts from an increase in intensity of development, even though the AGH facilities may not block views. The AGH monopole could reach 85 feet tall, compared to the estimated maximum 60-foot high existing tower at the same location. The AGH site, with the exception of some existing telecommunications equipment, is situated on a hilltop of the Santa Monica Mountains, in a natural area of the City where there is no hillside development. Single-family residential development is located below the hill, in the flatter portions of the City. We suggest the potential impacts to visual resources from the proposed LMR facilities located in this visually sensitive area be analyzed further.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please contact Allison Cook, Assistant Planning Director, at (818) 597-7310 or at acook@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Greg Ramirez
City Manager

April 5, 2016

Environmental and Historic Preservation Office
FEMA Region IX, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Notice of Availability of a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) – LA RICS Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for providing the City of Beverly Hills (City) with the opportunity to comment on the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the LA RICS LMR Project (Project). Because a portion of the project is located in the City of Beverly Hills, there is a potential that the City of Beverly Hills and its residents could experience negative impacts both during the construction of this project and as a result of operation thereafter. The City is requesting that the following comments be considered.

LOCATION

The City is concerned about the use of the Walker drive site in the City of Beverly Hills for the LA RICS Facility due to the fact that it is a relatively small site and there are a number of other facilities already occupying the space. Further, the City would like to reserve additional space existing on the site for the expansion of City infrastructure. For this reason, the City is opposes the use of this site for the LA RICS LMR Project.

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

The City has concerns about construction equipment in the Trousdale Estates area. Should the Project move forward at the Walker Drive Site please consult with the City's Transportation Division to ensure that all hauling and Trousdale Construction regulations are being followed. Please call 310.285.1141 for more information.

NOISE

The City continues to have concerns about the potential noise impacts resulting from the construction of the proposed Project. The Trousdale Estates area is a residential neighborhood and construction noise resulting from excavators, trucks and jackhammers would be disruptive to the residents of the neighborhood.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The City of Beverly Hills Police Department is currently working on a plan to increase security measures and limit access to the Walker Drive site. The addition of equipment on this site is of particular concern to the City due to the fact that it may increase the need for vendors or maintenance teams to access the site.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The City has concerns regarding ground stability at the proposed project site due to the fact that it is located in a potential landslide zone area as designated by the California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The City of Beverly Hills is opposed to the introduction of hazardous materials (the proposed diesel fuel tank) on the Walker Drive site as it is located in a residential neighborhood.

AESTHETICS

The City is concerned about the potential aesthetic impacts that the Project may have on the surrounding neighborhood. The extension of the existing tower at the Walker Drive site could negatively impact the views from the surrounding residential properties. Further, the City is concerned about the proposed red or white LED lamps that may be installed as part of the project, as well as the proposed exterior security lighting on the 600 square foot equipment shelter. Lighting of this nature is incompatible with the residential neighborhood surrounding the Project site.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

As a telecommunications project that involves the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Section 106 review is required to study the impact on historic and cultural resources. Please identify if a Section 106 review has been completed, pursuant to the programmatic agreement. As an interested party, please provide us with a copy of the report.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide input on the PEA. The City of Beverly Hills is looking forward to working with the Joint Powers Authority to discuss appropriate and adequate mitigation measures and project alternatives.

Sincerely,

RYAN GOHLICH, AICP
Assistant Director of Community
Development/City Planner,
Community Development Department

cc: Mahdi Aluzri, City Manager
George Chavez, Assistant City Manager
Susan Healy Keene, AICP, Director of Community Development
Aaron Kunz, AICP, Deputy Director of Transportation
Scott Stephens, Fire Battalion Chief
Lincoln Hoshino, Police Sergeant

CHATTEN-BROWN & CARSTENS LLP
2200 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY
SUITE 318
HERMOSA BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90254
www.cbcearthlaw.com

Telephone: (310) 798-2400
Facsimile: (310) 798-2402

E-mail:
DPC@CBCEARTHLAW.COM

March 28, 2016

Ms. Jill Dale
Senior Environmental Specialist
Email: Jill.Dale@fema.dhs.gov
Environmental and Historic Preservation Office,
FEMA Region IX,
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: LA-RICS –LMR EIR PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Dear Ms. Dale:

We have been retained as special counsel to the City of Glendora (City) with regard to the LA-RICS proposal to construct communication towers in the Los Angeles region.

We wrote to the LA-RICs Project Team on March 5, 2015 and again on February 19, 2016 regarding the potential location of communications towers at three Los Angeles County owned fire stations within City limits has not been sufficiently coordinated with the City. (A copy of these March 5, 2015 and February 19, 2016 letters are attached.) We are pleased to see these communication towers are not among the towers proposed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for this project. We ask that you immediately contact us, City Attorney Wayne Leech, City Manager Chris Jeffers and Planning Director Jeff Kugel if our understanding is incorrect, or if there is a proposal to change this project to include such towers in the City of Glendora as we would strongly object to such a proposal.

With regard to the project as it is set forth now, we note there are two new towers proposed for Johnstone Peak. (PEA, Appendix B, p B-5, see http://www.la-rics.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/LMR-PEA-Appendix-B-Part-2-final_3-3-16.pdf .) These are within the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service. These towers would be visible from the City of Glendora, and would potentially interfere with the operation of a communication tower that the City currently maintains there.

Therefore, we ask that more detail be provided about this potential proposal. Specifically, since the original proposal of the LA-RICs project, the national forest in this area has received National Monument status as of October 2014. (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/10/141008-san-gabriel-mountains-national-monument-conservation/.) We believe additional investigation should be initiated to determine if the additional towers at the Johnstone Peak location are compatible with the new, more protective designation of the National Monument.

Furthermore, we are concerned about the potential for interference of operations- both by physical obstruction and by electromagnetic interference- of tower proposal on Johnstone Peak with the City's current communications tower. Potential mitigation measures should be included to address potential interference with the existing communications tower infrastructure.

Conclusion.

The LA-RICS project is obviously important to the future of public safety in the local region. Therefore, the City has been a supportive member of the Joint Powers Authority that is implementing this project, and as helpful as possible to you in carrying it out. However, as a member of the JPA we believe the best project possible, with the least damaging environmental impacts possible, should be developed.

Please feel free to contact City Attorney Wayne Leech or City Manager Chris Jeffers directly about this matter. We ask that you do so as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Carstens

Enclosures

Cc:
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
LA RICS Special Counsel Nicole Gordon
LA RICS General Counsel Truc L. More
LA RICS Executive Director Patrick Mallon

ENCLOSURE 1

CHATTEN-BROWN & CARSTENS LLP
2200 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY
SUITE 318
HERMOSA BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90254
www.cbcearthlaw.com

Telephone: (310) 798-2400
Facsimile: (310) 798-2402

E-mail:
DPC@CBCEARTHLAW.COM

February 19, 2016

Nancy Yang
LA-RICS Project Team
2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Re: LA-RICS –LMR EIR

Dear Ms. Yang:

We have been retained as special counsel to the City of Glendora (City) with regard to the LA-RICS proposal to construct communication towers in the Los Angeles region.

We have previously written to you on March 5, 2015 regarding the potential location of communications towers at three Los Angeles County owned fire stations within City limits has not been sufficiently coordinated with the City. (A copy of this March 5, 2015 letter is attached.) We are pleased to see these communication towers are not among the towers proposed in the EIR for this project. We ask that you immediately contact us, City Attorney Wayne Leech, City Manager Chris Jeffers and Planning Director Jeff Kugel if our understanding is incorrect, or if there is a proposal to change this project to include such towers in the City of Glendora as we would strongly object to such a proposal.

With regard to the project as it is set forth now, we note there are two new towers proposed for Johnstone Peak. (DEIR, p. 2-17.) These are set forth as being within the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service. These towers would be visible from the City of Glendora, and would potentially interfere with the operation of a communication tower that the City currently maintains there.

Therefore, we ask that more detail be provided about this potential proposal. Specifically, since the original proposal of the LA-RICs project, the national forest in this area has received National Monument status as of October 2014. (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/10/141008-san-gabriel-mountains-national-monument-conservation/.) We believe additional investigation should be

initiated to determine if the additional towers at the Johnstone Peak location are compatible with the new, more protective designation of the National Monument.

Furthermore, we are concerned about the potential for interference of operations- both by physical obstruction and by electromagnetic interference- of tower proposal on Johnstone Peak with the City's current communications tower. Potential mitigation measures should be included to address potential interference with the existing communications tower infrastructure.

Conclusion.

The LA-RICS project is obviously important to the future of public safety in the local region. Therefore, the City has been a supportive member of the Joint Powers Authority that is implementing this project, and as helpful as possible to you in carrying it out. However, as a member of the JPA we believe the best project possible, with the least damaging environmental impacts possible, should be developed.

Please feel free to contact City Attorney Wayne Leech or City Manager Chris Jeffers directly about this matter. We ask that you do so as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Carstens

Cc:
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
LA RICS Special Counsel Nicole Gordon
LA RICS General Counsel Truc L. More
LA RICS Executive Director Patrick Mallon

ENCLOSURE 2

CHATTEN-BROWN & CARSTENS LLP
2200 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY
SUITE 318
HERMOSA BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90254
www.cbcearthlaw.com

Telephone: (310) 798-2400
Facsimile: (310) 798-2402

E-mail:
DPC@CBCEARTHLAW.COM

March 5, 2015

Nancy Yang
LA-RICS Project Team
2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Re: LA-RICS towers proposed for construction in the City of Glendora

Dear Ms. Yang:

We have been retained as special counsel to the City of Glendora (City) with regard to the LA-RICS proposal to construct three communication towers in the City of Glendora. The location and design for these communications towers at three Los Angeles County owned fire stations within City limits has not been sufficiently coordinated with the City. We have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impacts for the LA-RICS project and find they do not adequately address aesthetic and public safety impacts within the City. Therefore, we ask that you immediately contact us, City Attorney Wayne Leech, City Manager Chris Jeffers and Planning Director Jeff Kugel before tower implementation within the City proceeds any further.

The City was not given sufficient notice of the specifics of the proposal prior to the October 2014 Environmental Assessment. Since that point, the City has attempted in good faith to work with you and staff to address the serious concerns that have been identified by City staff and residents. These issues are likely to remain an ongoing source of friction until they are satisfactorily resolved. Specifically, the areas about which further discussions are necessary are aesthetics, public safety, and potential alternative sites.

A. Aesthetic Impacts Will Be Significant to Glendora, And Must be Mitigated.

Aesthetic impacts have not been sufficiently addressed to this point. Because the telecommunications towers would be erected substantially taller than the surrounding residential development, they would be visible from local streets and residences. They

would represent an aesthetic impact adverse to the attractiveness of our community, and thus we view them as significant impacts. Federal courts have held that aesthetic concerns of nearby residents and other members of the public could constitute compelling evidence for a public agency to deny permission for a proposed tower. (*AT&T Wireless PCS v. City Council of Virginia Beach* 155 F.3d 423,430-31 (4th Cir. 1998).) While we are not proposing that you or we would deny or revoke permission for the proposed transmission towers, we mention this case to show the seriousness of aesthetic concerns created by the towers.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) identified certain LTE sites that would be located in what were termed regions of influence for visual resources. (EA, p. 4.7-1.) However, for the remaining towers, including the three County fire station sites in the City, the EA concluded the LTE sites "would not impede any significant views from public spaces, roadways, and or existing developments in the vicinity of these LTE sites." (EA, p. 4.7-1.) As the local jurisdiction immediately affected by the towers and most familiar with the areas surrounding them, we respectfully disagree with this assessment. Even if the towers did not impede views, they would create a large, discordant visual impacts that would be highly visible from near and far.

The EA states LA-RICS would coordinate with local jurisdictions and where appropriate "stealth technology would be used to disguise the proposed monopole towers as palm trees, pine trees, flagpoles, or hose towers, or incorporated into architectural elements." (*Ibid.*) Therefore, the EA concluded there would be no direct significant impact on aesthetic and visual resources. However, despite our attempts to coordinate with you in good faith to implement stealth technologies for the tower sites in the City, we have received no satisfactory efforts from you in response. Therefore, we ask that you immediately take steps to work with us to reduce the pending aesthetic impacts as your environmental documentation states that you would do.

B. Public Safety Impacts Will Be Significant.

As City Attorney Wayne Leech advised you in his February 2, 2015 letter, Glendora is concerned that the towers may emit radiowave/microwave emissions that are injurious to the health of citizens residing in close proximity to the towers. One of the towers is proposed to be located in close proximity to a day care facility. We asked that you provide any studies evidencing that the towers will not pose a health risk to the children there, but have received no response to this question.

On the other hand, many studies have found a correlation between exposure to electromagnetic fields and cancer. (*See, e.g.*, Nancy Wertheimer & Edward Leeper, *Electrical Wiring Configurations and Childhood Cancer*, 109 Amer. J. Of Epidemiology 273-84 (1979); L. Tomenius, *50-Hz Electromagnetic Environment and the Incidence of Childhood Tumors in Stockholm County*, 7 Bioelectromagnetics 191-207 (1986); D.A.

Savitz et al., *Magnetic Field Exposure From Electric Appliances and Childhood Cancer*, 131 Amer. J. Of Epidemiology 763-73 (1990); J.R. Wilkins & Ruth Koutras, *Paternal Occupation and Brain Cancer in Offspring: A Mortality-Based Case-Control Study*, 14 Amer. J. Of Ind. Med. 299-318 (1988); K.T.S. Yao, *Microwave Radiation-Induced Chromosomal Aberrations in Corneal Epithelium of Chinese Hamsters*, 69 J. Of Heredity 409-12 (1978); Ellen Sugarman, Warning: The Electricity Around You May Be Hazardous To Your Health, App. A (1992) (containing extensive list of major studies).

Public health and safety is an issue of great interest within our City, especially as it affects children. Therefore, we ask that you take this question seriously, and work with us to address it.

C. Alternative Locations Should be Seriously Considered for One or All of the Towers.

One way, perhaps the best way, to address the aesthetic and public safety impacts that potentially would be created, would be for the communications towers to be placed in alternative locations in the City with less severe impacts. City Attorney Leech identified for you reasonable alternative locations with less severe environmental impacts, such as Johnstone Peak where Glendora currently has a tower for its communications, or the South Hills in Glendora. These environmentally superior alternatives appear to have been ignored to this point. We ask that you closely examine them and discuss with us the potential for using them instead of the County fire station sites.

Conclusion.

The LA-RICS project is obviously important to the future of public safety in the local region. Therefore, the City has been a supportive member of the Joint Powers Authority that is implementing this project, and as helpful as possible to you in carrying it out. However, as a member of the JPA we believe we are also entitled to a high level of consideration and coordination from you and Authority staff to ensure potential adverse impacts to our constituents are reduced to the maximum extent possible. We have not yet seen evidence of such efforts on your part.

While adverse local area impacts in Glendora are of preeminent concern to us, we expect that similar concerns about impacts to constituents would be shared by a number of other jurisdictions that are members of the JPA as well. Therefore, we ask that you act quickly to work with us to resolve our concerns, including by setting up mechanisms and procedures to handle these and similar concerns in the future. Such quick action would ensure they do not become aggravated and or begin to pose difficulties for the entire LA-RICS project.

We look forward to your response. We demand that you cease and desist from your ongoing efforts to place communications towers within City boundaries until you have conferred with City representatives about them.

Please feel free to contact City Attorney Wayne Leech or City Manager Chris Jeffers directly about this matter. We ask that you do so as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Carstens

Cc:
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
LA RICS Special Counsel Nicole Gordon
LA RICS General Counsel Truc L. More
LA RICS Executive Director Patrick Mallon
Dr. Frank J. Monteferrante, NTIA, US Department of Commerce

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
ADMINISTRATION

4 April 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Jill.Dale@fema.dhs.gov

Jill S. Dale, Grants Program Sr. Environmental Specialist
Environmental and Historic Preservation Office
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1111 Broadway, Ste. 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

SUBJECT: Comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the LA-RICS Land Mobile Radio System

Dear Ms. Dale:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes appreciates the opportunity to comment upon the proposed Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DPEA) for the above-mentioned project.

We understand that two (2) of the proposed LMR sites in Rancho Palos Verdes have been eliminated from consideration since we submitted our DPEA scoping comments last September. The remaining proposed LMR site in Rancho Palos Verdes is the "Rolling Hills Transmit" (RHT) site, which is an existing County-owned "antenna farm." We understand that LA-RICS proposes to construct a new, 180-foot-tall lattice tower on this site, rather than attaching LA-RICS' antennae and equipment on the existing, 150-foot-tall lattice antenna support structure on the site.

As discussed in the enclosed comments that the City recently submitted on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for this project, we remain concerned about the proposed RHT site with respect to aesthetics, biological resource impacts, and land use and planning consistency. The DPEA concludes that the project:

- Will have no adverse aesthetic impacts upon residents whose homes overlook the site because it is already developed as an antenna farm;
- Will have no adverse impacts upon biological resources within the City's adjacent Vista del Norte Nature Reserve because construction will be required to comply with project-wide best-management practices (BMPs); and,
- Will not be inconsistent with the Open Space-Hazard (OH) designations that apply to the property under the Rancho Palos Verdes General Plan and the Rancho

Palos Verdes Zoning Code because LA-RICS is not legally obligated to abide by local land use and zoning regulations.

The City respectfully disagrees that the assessment of these environment impacts in the DPEA justifies the conclusions that have been reached. We believe that LA-RICS public outreach efforts to advise surrounding residents of the potential effects of this proposal have been inadequate. We remain concerned that project-wide BMPs will not necessarily address the effects of this project upon sensitive habitats and species in the City's adjacent nature reserve. We also do not find LA-RICS' exemption from local l regulation to be compelling or convincing evidence of the consistency of the project with local land use and zoning.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this important project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (310) 544-5226 or via e-mail at *kitf@rpvca.gov*.

Sincerely,

Kit Fox, AICP
Senior Administrative Analyst

enclosure

cc: Mayor Ken Dyda and Rancho Palos Verdes City Council
Doug Willmore, City Manager
Gabriella Yap, Deputy City Manager
Terry Rodrigue, Community Development Director
Ara Mihranian, Deputy Community Development Director

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
ADMINISTRATION

24 February 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
DraftEIR.Hotline@la-rics.org

Nancy Yang, Project Engineer
LA-RICS
2525 Corporate Pl., Ste. 100
Monterey Park, CA 91754

SUBJECT: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the LA-RICS Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System

Dear Ms. Yang:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes appreciates the opportunity to comment upon the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the above-mentioned project. We have reviewed the DEIR and the LMR project description, and offer the following comments:

1. In scoping comments that we submitted on 23 September 2014 (enclosed), we noted a number of issues to be addressed with respect to a proposed LMR site on Coast Guard property at Point Vicente Park/Civic Center (Location ID: PVC). We now understand that the LMR project description in the DEIR no longer includes this site. However, in recent discussions with LA-RICS Staff and contractors, it is clear that LA-RICS is still interested in an LMR site at this general location (although perhaps not on the Coast Guard property). The City remains open to discussions with LA-RICS about its interest in the PVC site. However, we also wish to go on record stating that many (if not all) of the issues previously raised regarding this site in our scoping comments will need to be addressed in any subsequent environmental review for an LMR installation at the PVC site.

2. In the same scoping comments from September 2014, we also noted issues to be addressed with respect to a proposed LMR site on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) property at the top of San Pedro Hill (Location ID: SPC). We now understand that the LMR project description in the DEIR no longer includes this site either. However, the City respectfully suggests that the SPC site—located at the highest point on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and already developed with a large number of antennae and support structures—should be retained as an alternative site that could provide coverage to much of the Peninsula and South Bay region.

3. In September 2014, we also noted concerns regarding a proposed LMR site at the County "antenna farm" at 5741 Crestridge Road (Location ID: RHT), primarily related to aesthetics, biological resource impacts, and land use and planning. We now understand that LA-RICS has determined that the RHT site is statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.25, and will not be addressed in the DEIR. Notwithstanding this determination, the City believes that the issues raised in our scoping comments (enclosed) should be addressed before this LMR installation is constructed. Furthermore, we are concerned that the public outreach efforts undertaken by LA-RICS regarding the RHT site in December 2015 were inadequate. We have recently provided LA-RICS with addresses for several homes on Mistridge Drive and contact information for the *Mesa Palos Verdes* homeowners' association, all of whom should be apprised of LA-RICS' plans for the RHT site.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this important project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (310) 544-5226 or via e-mail at *kitf@rpvca.gov*.

Sincerely,

Kit Fox, AICP
Senior Administrative Analyst

enclosure

cc: Mayor Ken Dyda and Rancho Palos Verdes City Council
Doug Willmore, City Manager
Gabriella Yap, Deputy City Manager
Terry Rodrigue, Interim Community Development Director
Ara Mihranian, Deputy Community Development Director

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
ADMINISTRATION

23 September 2014

Nancy Yang, Project Engineer
LA-RICS
2525 Corporate Pl., Ste. 200
Monterey Park, CA 91754

SUBJECT: Scoping Comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the LA-RICS Land Mobile Radio System

Dear Ms. Yang:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes appreciates the opportunity to comment upon the scope of the proposed Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the above-mentioned project. We have reviewed the Notice of Preparation and Initial Study (NOP/IS), and offer the following comments on the three (3) proposed Land Mobile Radio (LMR) sites in the City, as well as general comments on the DEIR and LMR system:

U.S. Coast Guard Property at Point Vicente Park/Civic Center (Location ID: PVC)

1. The discussion of Aesthetics in the NOP/IS (p. 21) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts upon scenic vistas and the visual character of the proposed LMR sites and their surroundings. The proposed PVC location would be located at a visually-prominent site surrounded by the City's civic center and a portion of its nature preserve. There also residential neighborhoods surrounding this site where ocean views would be degraded by the addition of an antenna structure and related support equipment. The addition of an antenna structure and related support equipment is also likely to degrade the character of the open space areas surrounding this site (see enclosed diagram). The City would prefer the elimination of this site from consideration in the proposed project, but failing that, the DEIR should fully evaluate the aesthetic impacts of an LMR site at this location.

2. The discussion of Biological Resources in the NOP/IS (pp. 24-25) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts upon sensitive species and habitat, and that it may conflict with adopted Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs). The proposed PVC location would be surrounded by the Alta Vicente Reserve of the City's Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. The nature reserve property is enrolled as a part of the City's NCCP. The City would prefer the

elimination of this site from consideration in the proposed project, but failing that, the DEIR should fully evaluate the biological resource impacts of an LMR site at this location.

3. The discussion of Cultural Resources in the NOP/IS (pp. 25-26) states that the project is likely to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource. The proposed PVC location would be on the site of an existing World War II-era bunker and the remains of gun batteries at Point Vicente. The bunker and batteries are associated with Fort MacArthur in San Pedro. Furthermore, the surrounding civic center property is a former, Cold War-era Nike missile base, which includes the intact missile silos. Finally, the site would be located within a ½-mile radius of the Point Vicente Lighthouse, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The City would prefer the elimination of this site from consideration in the proposed project, but failing that, the DEIR should fully evaluate the cultural resource impacts of an LMR site at this location.

4. The discussion of Hazards and Hazardous Materials in the NOP/IS (pp. 28-29) states that the project is likely to involve the handling of hazardous materials in the vicinity of a school. Each of the proposed LMR sites would include a diesel-powered back-up generator. Within a ¼-mile radius of the PVC location are the following schools:

   - Peninsula Montessori School, 31100 Hawthorne Blvd.

   The DEIR should fully evaluate the hazards and hazardous materials impacts of an LMR site at this location.

<u>County "Antenna Farm" at 5741 Crestridge Road (Location ID: RHT)</u>

5. The discussion of Aesthetics in the NOP/IS (p. 21) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts upon scenic vistas and the visual character of the proposed LMR sites and their surroundings. The proposed RHT location would be located at a visually-prominent site surrounded by institutional uses and senior citizen housing, as well as a portion of the City's nature preserve. There also residential neighborhoods to the south of this site where views of the Los Angeles Basin would be degraded by the addition of an antenna structure and related support equipment. The addition of an antenna structure and related support equipment is also likely to degrade the character of the open space areas to the north of this site (see enclosed diagram). The City would prefer the elimination of this site from consideration in the proposed project, but failing that, the DEIR should fully evaluate the aesthetic impacts of an LMR site at this location. Furthermore, since there is an existing antenna structure already on this site, the DEIR should fully evaluate the feasibility of co-locating the LMR antennae and

support equipment on this existing structure, rather than installing another antenna support structure on the site.

6. The discussion of Biological Resources in the NOP/IS (pp. 24-25) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts upon sensitive species and habitat, and that it may conflict with adopted Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs). The proposed RHT location would abut the Vista del Norte Reserve of the City's Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. The nature reserve property is enrolled as a part of the City's NCCP. The City would prefer the elimination of this site from consideration in the proposed project, but failing that, the DEIR should fully evaluate the biological resource impacts of an LMR site at this location.

7. The discussion of Hazards and Hazardous Materials in the NOP/IS (pp. 28-29) states that the project is likely to involve the handling of hazardous materials in the vicinity of a school. Each of the proposed LMR sites would include a diesel-powered back-up generator. Within a ¼-mile radius of the RHT location are the following schools:

   - Ridgecrest Intermediate School, 28915 Northbay Dr.
   - Peninsula Community Church Preschool, 5640 Crestridge Rd.
   - Ner Tamid Preschool, 5721 Crestridge Rd.

   The DEIR should fully evaluate the hazards and hazardous materials impacts of an LMR site at this location.

8. The discussion of Land Use and Planning in the NOP/IS (p. 32) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts with respect to consistency with local land use and zoning regulations. A substantial portion of the RHT site is zoned "Open Space-Hazard" (OH), as depicted in the enclosed diagram. Although the exact location of the proposed antenna structure and related support equipment on this site has not been identified, they should not be located with the portion of the site zoned OH. The DEIR should fully evaluate the land use and planning impacts of an LMR site at this location.

<u>Federal Aviation Administration Property at the Top of San Pedro Hill (Location ID: SPC)</u>

9. The discussion of Aesthetics in the NOP/IS (p. 21) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts upon scenic vistas and the visual character of the proposed LMR sites and their surroundings. The proposed SPC location would be located at a visually-prominent site at the highest point in the City and on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. There are residential neighborhoods surrounding this site where community aesthetics could be degraded by the addition of an antenna structure and related support equipment. The DEIR should fully evaluate the aesthetic impacts of an LMR site at this location. Furthermore, since there are

existing antenna structures already on this site, the DEIR should fully evaluate the feasibility of co-locating the LMR antennae and support equipment on this existing structures, rather than installing another antenna support structure on the site.

10. The discussion of Hazards and Hazardous Materials in the NOP/IS (pp. 28-29) states that the project is likely to involve the handling of hazardous materials in the vicinity of a school. Each of the proposed LMR sites would include a diesel-powered back-up generator. Within a ¼-mile radius of the SPC location are the following schools:

    - Mira Catalina Elementary School, 30511 Lucania Dr.

    The DEIR should fully evaluate the hazards and hazardous materials impacts of an LMR site at this location.

General Comments

11. The discussion of Geology and Soils in the NOP/IS (pp. 26-27) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts with respect to exposure to risk of landslides and construction on expansive soils. The entire Palos Verdes Peninsula is underlain by soil that is susceptible to landslides and/or may be characterized as expansive. The DEIR should fully evaluate the geology and soils impacts of the proposed project, and should mandate site-specific geologic and geotechnical studies prior to construction.

12. The discussion of Hydrology and Water Quality in the NOP/IS (pp. 30-31) states that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts with respect to increased runoff from new impermeable surfaces and the possibility of fuel spills. Although the amount of new impermeable area at each LMR site is expected to be negligible, each site will also include outdoor storage of hazardous materials (i.e., a self-contained diesel back-up generator). The DEIR should fully evaluate the hydrology and water quality impacts of the proposed project, and should mandate site-specific conditions for compliance with local, State and Federal water quality regulations prior to construction.

13. The discussions of Noise and Transportation/Traffic in the NOP/IS (pp. 33-34 & 36-37) state that the project is likely to have significant construction-related temporary noise and traffic impacts upon surrounding neighborhoods. The DEIR should fully evaluate the noise and transportation/traffic impacts of the proposed project, and should mandate specific mitigation measures to address them.

14. As an alternative to the proposed project, LA-RICS should consider only installing LMR antennae and support equipment at sites where they can be co-located with existing towers or monopoles, or building-mounted using "stealth" technologies.

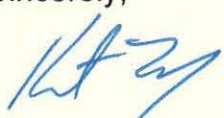
The City of Rancho Palos Verdes believes that such an alternative could reduce many of the adverse environmental impacts of the proposed project by minimizing and/or eliminating the need to construct numerous new antenna towers or monopoles.

15. The NOP/IS lists the City of Rancho Palos Verdes as a public agency whose approval is required for this project (p. 15). However, it has been the City's understanding up to this point that LA-RICS intends to avail itself of the County's exemption from local land use and zoning regulations. The City requests clarification of whether or not it will have the authority to review the three (3) proposed LMR sites through its own development review and building permit processes.

16. If the City of Rancho Palos Verdes elects to "opt out" of continued participation in LA-RICS, what (if any) effect would this have upon the inclusion of LMR sites in the City in the LA-RICS system? Would they be removed from the LMR project, or would they still be included whether or not the City continues to participate in LA-RICS?

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this important project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (310) 544-5226 or via e-mail at *kitf@rpv.com*.

Sincerely,



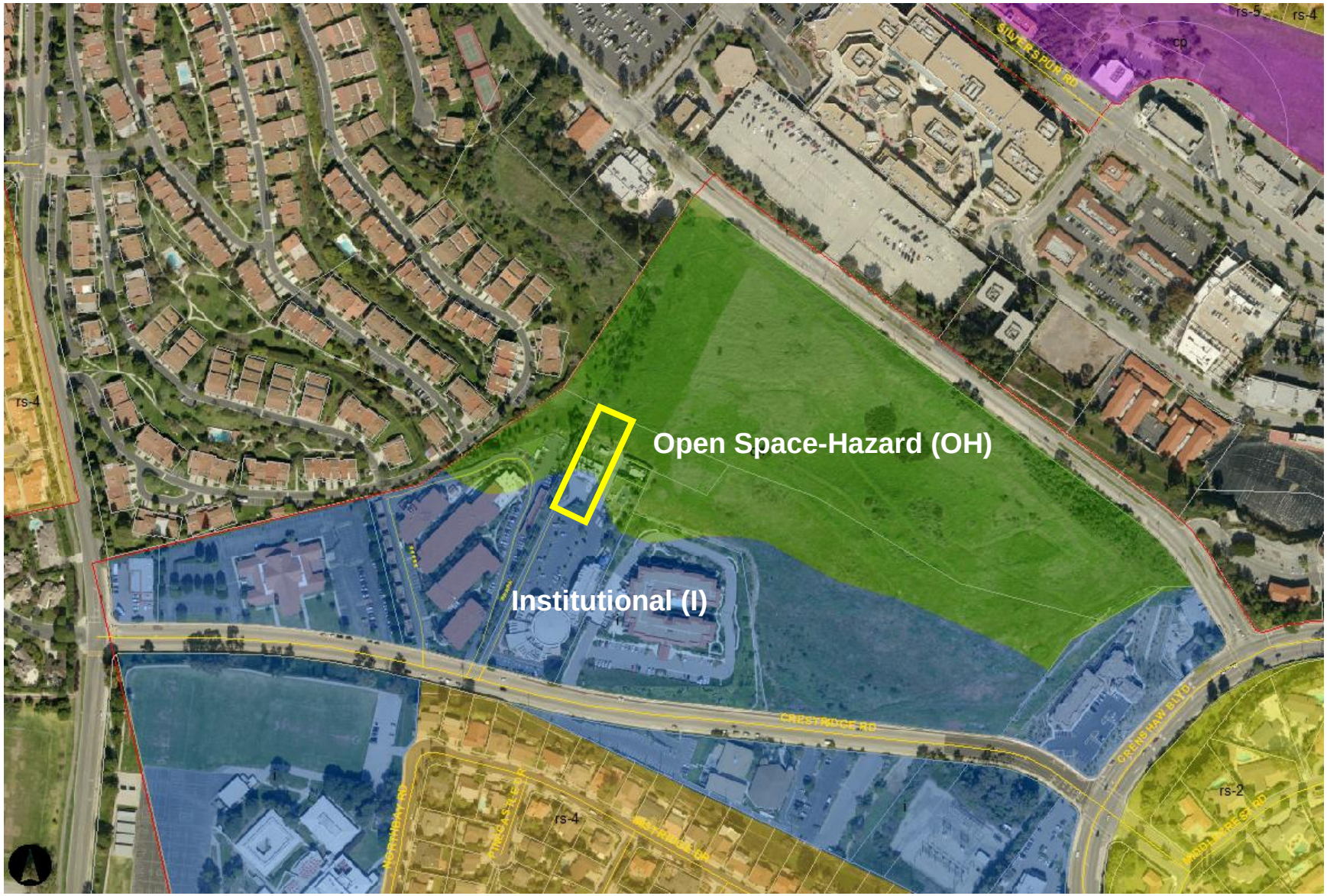
Kit Fox, AICP
Senior Administrative Analyst

enclosures

cc: Mayor Jerry Duhovic and Rancho Palos Verdes City Council
Carolynn Petru, Acting City Manager
Joel Rojas, Community Development Director

LMR Site ID "PVC"
Surrounding Nature Preserve

LMR Site ID "RHT"
Surrounding Nature Preserve



LMR Site ID "RHT"
Existing Zoning

USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Angeles National Forest
San Gabriel Mountains National Monument | 701 North Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006-2725
626-574-1613

File Code: 1950
Date: March 31, 2016

Alessandro Amaglio
Environmental Officer
FEMA Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Amaglio:

With this letter I am transmitting the comments of the USDA Forest Service on a Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), prepared by FEMA, for the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System project. The Forest Service continues to support this important public safety project, and appreciates the opportunity to comment. Enclosed are a bulleted statement of comments, with a corresponding electronic file version of the PEA using track changes, on the enclosed CD. We are commenting as an agency that will likely receive permit applications associated with the project, for sites on National Forest System lands.

I support FEMA's programmatic level of review, and have attempted to ensure that Forest Service comments are consistent with your agency's approach. Incorporation of these comments will allow the Forest Service to more efficiently complete any future permitting actions at sites on National Forest System lands by tiering to or adopting the PEA as allowed by regulations. I believe that at a programmatic level, Forest Service comments would support FEMA in reaching a conclusion that there are no significant impacts.

It is my understanding that FEMA may continue to be involved in the site specific permitting decisions of other federal agencies such as the Forest Service. The lead agency role for completing National Environmental Policy Act compliance would be decided at a later date. There may also be negotiations between FEMA and the Forest Service as to how to most efficiently accomplish compliance with other federal laws. If you would like to discuss our respective agency roles moving forward, or if you have any other questions or comments on the information I have submitted with this letter, please feel free to contact Lorraine Gerchas, 626-574-5281, or lmgerchas@fs.fed.us. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY VAIL
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

USDA Forest Service, Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Comments on Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Joint Powers Authority Land Mobile Radio Project, Programmatic Environmental Assessment, prepared by US Dept. of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency

A corresponding Microsoft Word Track Changes file is also submitted with these comments -

March 31, 2016

- Section 1.2.1 – Suggest adding reference to USFWS letter to FEMA of 1/29/16, as part of regulatory background. Also not clear in this section if it only describes how FEMA, not OFA's would use the document. There could be edits to clarify that 1.2.1 speaks specifically to FEMA, and Section 1.4 for OFA's.

- Section 1.2.2, Figure 1.2-1, and Section 1.4 – these sections together seem to indicate there will be some future coordination between FEMA and the OFA's, and a decision at a later time as to who assumes lead for any further NEPA compliance. Based on this information FS understands that lead federal agency for NEPA and other environmental compliance, during OFA permitting process, is not yet determined. Recommend discussion to ensure FEMA and FS have common understanding.

- FS offers edits to better clarify and integrate these introductory sections. Statement was added that FS may tier to or adopt the PEA per NEPA regulations.

- Section 1.3 - Suggest adding a sentence for how the MOU with ACOE, NMFS, and USFWS was applied to this project.

- Section 1.4 – the sentence – "This PEA does not address NEPA regulations specific to other Federal Agencies" would limit FS ability to tier to or adopt the PEA. Suggested rewording has been included, also language added to cover FS requirements other than NEPA by referencing the appropriate EA sections. Other clarifications were added to make this section consistent with 1.2.2. Also added were descriptions of the potential for compensatory mitigation, and geotechnical testing on National Forest System lands.

- Figure 3.2-2 – layers on the map seem to cut off the geologic hazard data. Revise map so that the entirety of the liquefaction/landslide area can be seen.

- Section 1.6 – minor clarifications to indicate that FEMA and OFA will work together and communicate as necessary on SEA's or further public reviews. FS supports this cooperation through the remainder of the project.

- Land Use/Planning Affected Environment – reference to applicable FS law added, also mention of National Monument designation.

- Section 3.4 – additional reference added to Forest Service MOU for Migratory Bird Executive Order, as well as Forest Service Sensitive Species, a special status applicable only on FS lands.

- Section 3.7.1.5 – added reference to Forest Service Programmatic Agreement with SHPO, which may be an option to satisfy NHPA

- Section 3.11 – added reference to Scenic Integrity Objectives established in the Forest Service Land Management Plan, and to the Scenery Management System.

- Section 4.1.2.2 – language added to identify potential adverse impact if forest plan standards are not met, but also a justification why impact is not significant, to support FEMA's FONSI. Also added demonstration of consistency with National Monument.

- Section 4.2-2 – Clarification noted in the ESA Section 7 section based on the USFWS letter from 1/29/16. Critical to FS that the EA correctly note the status of Consultation, which letter stated is not yet complete.

- Section 4.2-2 FS believes there is some potential for bird injury or mortality from collision with towers once they are constructed, especially in areas of higher bird density and diversity such as undeveloped National Forests. Literature suggests this impact can be increased by FAA required marking lights, which are not allowed to use motion sensors in experience of the FS. Information has been added to capture this impact, as well as justification for why it would not be significant.
    - Literature sources for lighting effects on bird mortality are: Evans et al., 2007; Eaton, 2003; Erickson et al., 2005; Gehrig et al., 2009; Longcore et al. 2012

- Section 4.7.2 – Statement that 106 for OFA's was not addressed in this document was inconsistent with mention of Forest Service PA in Section 3.7.1.5. Changed wording slightly to be consistent and allow future use of FS PA if determined necessary.

- Section 4.11 – FS views visual impacts in terms of scenic integrity objectives, and based on current information the project may not meet those objectives. Since towers at many FS sites are much taller than existing, information on impacts and mitigation specific to NFS was added.

- Appendix B – Suggest highlighting or otherwise clearly indicating in the table which sites are on NFS lands, and which of those on NFS lands are within National Monument, to clearly identify the potential scope of FS involvement in relation to the entire project.

Appendix C-3
Changes to the Draft PEA

This page intentionally left blank

Revisions in the PEA

This section documents revisions to the PEA following the release of the Draft PEA. Changes to the PEA text are shown in the third column with new text shown as underlined and deleted text as ~~strikethrough~~.

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
Appendix C	Appendix C has been renamed "Public Involvement" and includes the responses to comments on the Draft PEA.	Appendix C: Public Involvement Scoping Comments Comments and Responses to the Public Draft PEA Changes to the Draft PEA
Appendix G	Appendix G has been added to the PEA to include the applicable Programmatic Agreements in compliance with Section 106.	Appendix G Programmatic Agreements for Section 106 Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (October 2014) Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for the Collocation of Wireless Antennas Executed by the Federal Communications Commission, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (March 2001) Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Review of Effects on Historic Properties for Certain Undertakings Approved by the Federal Communications Commission (September 2004) Program Comment for the Rural Utilities Service, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Avoid Duplicative Section 106 Reviews for Wireless Communication Facilities Construction and Modification (Federal Register 2009, amended 2015) Programmatic Agreement Among the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5), California State Historic Preservation Officer, Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Processes for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Management of Historic Properties by the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest Region
Section 1.2	The title has been revised	Programmatic Regulatory Background and Use of This Programmatic Environmental Assessment by FEMA and FCC

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
Section 1.2 Programmatic Regulatory Background and Use of This Programmatic Environmental Assessment by FEMA and FCC	Sentence has been added at the end of the section	The general regulatory environment of Federal agencies where LMR project sites may be proposed at locations on lands that they administer is described in Section 1.4 below.
Section 1.2.2 – Use of this Programmatic Environmental Assessment	Section has been revised	Following FEMA's programmatic assessment of the LMR project documented in this Final PEA, FEMA will issue a Programmatic Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that is based on the information contained in this Final PEA, with the requirement that the Authority complies with all conditions described in this Final PEA, and in accordance FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations). Following the issuance of its FONSI, no additional public or agency noticing will be required for FEMA's NEPA compliance on the LMR project. Prior to authorizing funding for any LMR site-specific activities, FEMA would confirm and document its compliance with all applicable Federal environmental regulations. FEMA would ensure that compliance has occurred or conditions have been established for the Authority to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, Federal Endangered Species Act, Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Federal Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Federal Clean Air Act, Farmland Protection Policy Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, Executive Order 12898, and NEPA. The conditions and processes for compliance with these regulations are described throughout Section 4 of this document. FEMA would document its findings and environmental compliance-related grant conditions in its administrative record via a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC). If additional analysis is required to determine whether impacts and mitigation measures have been adequately addressed and identified in this PEA, FEMA would request additional site-specific information from the Authority to determine if the conclusions of this PEA and all conditions of the PEA have been met. This step would include coordination with other Federal agencies (OFAs) as described in Section 1.4; and for

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
		sites on Federal lands, a determination of which agency would assume the lead role for compliance, as shown in Figure 1.2.1. If the additional site-specific information identifies different impacts or mitigation measures than those identified in this PEA, then a tiered site-specific supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) would be prepared by FEMA. It is expected that tiered SEAs would focus on issues unique to the specific site or activity elements that generate impacts not analyzed and described in this PEA. Failure by the Authority to obtain all appropriate Federal, State, and local environmental permits and environmental compliance clearances before the start of construction may jeopardize Federal funding. Any change to activities at an LMR project site where FEMA has already obligated funds will require re-evaluation by FEMA for compliance with NEPA and the regulations and EOs listed above before activities at that site could be implemented. If the activities of a proposed LMR site are not analyzed in this PEA, and FEMA determines to potentially proceed with this LMR project site, FEMA would prepare a stand-alone EA for the LMR site. If FEMA (after coordination with OFAs, as appropriate) concludes that activities under an LMR project site have the potential to result in a significant environmental impact and determines that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) cannot be issued, and FEMA determines to potentially proceed with this LMR project site, FEMA would issue a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. No more than 90 LMR project sites are proposed for construction. If the Authority considers potential sites not included in Appendix B, the additional sites would be analyzed in accordance with the process shown in Figure 1.2 1. The potential use of the PEA by Federal agencies where LMR project sites may be proposed at locations on lands administered by Federal agencies is described in Section 1.4 below.
Section 1.4 – Other Federal Agencies	Section has been revised	Except for the potential LMR project sites within the jurisdiction of the USFS and the NPS, no other site among the candidate sites is located on land administered by Federal agencies. In the event that potential LMR project sites are considered, as shown in Figure 1.2-1, FEMA would coordinate with each Federal agency to conduct NEPA analysis for LMR activities proposed on land each of these agencies administers. For sites where FEMA is designated as the lead Federal agency, the NEPA process would be similar to that followed for other LMR project sites; and FEMA would utilize this PEA for its NEPA compliance. If the OFA is designated as the lead, NEPA analysis in accordance with that agency's regulations would be prepared by

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
		that agency. Additionally, FEMA would ensure that it has complied with NEPA for LMR activities on lands administered by OFAs, either through the use of this PEA, preparation of a SEA, or an alternative procedure such as the adoption of the OFA's NEPA compliance document. This PEA may be used by OFAs to address their NEPA regulations to the greatest extent feasible. The coordination between FEMA and the OFAs, and any subsequent NEPA compliance, may result in tiering from this PEA or the adoption of this PEA by the OFA, as appropriate. All final NEPA decision documents pertaining to LMR activities on OFA lands would be prepared by and signed by the OFAs pursuant to the OFA's NEPA regulations, and would govern implementation of LMR activities proposed on their lands. For proposed LMR project sites that would occur on lands administered by NPS, as stated in the NPS letter to FEMA dated November 3, 2015, and included in Appendix A, prior to initiating geotechnical and construction activities on these sites, the Authority would submit a Standard Form 299 Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands. The application would initiate the NPS process to evaluate, prepare, and issue the ROW permit. As noted in the November 3, 2015, letter, NPS would carry its own NEPA process and would be the NEPA lead agency for proposed LMR project sites that would occur on lands administered by NPS. Several of the potential LMR sites could be located on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the USFS, in the Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Prior to initiating geotechnical or construction activities on proposed LMR project sites that would occur on USFS lands, the Authority would submit a proposal for screening requirements as defined in USFS regulations (36 CFR 251.54 (e)), NEPA and permitting processes, as provided by the USFS letter to FEMA dated January 21, 2016 (Appendix A). If the proposal passes screening requirements, the Authority would submit the cost recovery fees for processing their application, which would also use Standard Form 299. The USFS NEPA Procedures are described in 36 CFR Part 220. The USFS may use this PEA as part of its own NEPA compliance. The USFS has other NEPA-related policies, regulations, and programs that may be applicable to LMR activities on NFS lands and establish a general environmental compliance regulatory environment that differ from that described in Section 1.2.1. This PEA can facilitate and integrate USFS's compliance with other items by providing a framework to address the impacts of implementation of LMR activities on NFS lands. Pertinent items are described in more detail below and in Sections 3 and 4 of this

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
		document. The National Forest Management Act requires USFS to approve projects and activities on NFS lands that would be consistent with the appropriate Land Management Plan (forest plan). Two primary components of the forest plan that would be applicable to the LMR project on NFS lands are a series of guidelines meant to limit bird mortality, and the Scenic Integrity Objectives for the protection of visual quality. Additionally, the Presidential Proclamation that created the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument created the framework to allow for certain land uses in the National Monument, including telecommunication facilities, and granted the USFS the ability to require mitigation measures to objects protected by the Proclamation. The USFS has an MOU with the USFWS related to compliance with EO 13186 that would be applicable to the LMR project on NFS lands. Through the implementation of the MOU, the USFS often requires the implementation of mitigation and avoidance measures to reduce effects to migratory birds. Additionally, the USFS has a conservation program to implement statutory requirements to maintain viable populations of USFS Sensitive Species wildlife on NFS. These statutory requirements include the evaluation of the effects of an activity on these species, and potentially the implementation of measures to reduce project-related effects to the species. The USFS has a Programmatic Agreement with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and ACHP for compliance with Section 106. This PA may be used to satisfy Section 106 Compliance for sites on NFS lands if agreed to by FEMA, FCC, and the USFS. Review of site-specific information for LMR sites on NFS lands may result in the USFS requiring additional site-specific mitigation measures beyond those described in this PEA. This mitigation may include replacing or providing substitute resources or environments for the resources or environments affected at an LMR site. This type of mitigation is defined in NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1508.20 [e]), and is often known as “compensatory” mitigation. If such mitigation were adopted in a USFS NEPA decision, it would be binding on the Authority to comply, not on FEMA. Also, this additional mitigation would be described, at minimum, in the USFS’s NEPA compliance documentation for that specific site. The USFS has received and accepted a proposal from LA-RICS for geotechnical and frequency testing of potential sites on NFS lands. USFS has chosen to process this application independent of any other special

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
		use proposals by the Authority to construct the system. USFS does not consider issuance of a testing permit to be an action connected to permits for construction of the system. For this activity on NFS lands, FEMA would rely on the NEPA compliance decisions made by the USFS.
Section 1.4 – Other Federal Agencies	Footnote was added	Addendum of Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds. June 20, 2014.
Section 1.6 –Public Participation Process	Section has been revised	On March 7, 2016, FEMA sent a public notice of availability of the Draft PEA to the agencies and interested parties and published the notice of availability in the local newspapers. Copies of the Draft PEA have been provided to interested parties upon request. The Draft PEA has been posted on the Authority's website and FEMA's website. Comments received on the Draft PEA were considered by FEMA, and substantive comments have been addressed in this Final PEA. Responses to the comments received on the Draft PEA are provided in Appendix C. Responses also describe the changes made to the PEA. For any tiered SEA(s), FEMA would conduct an appropriate level of public review, in coordination with the OFAs, as necessary, before making a NEPA compliance determination, in accordance with applicable regulations, guidelines, and orders. FEMA would determine the need for public involvement and circulation of any tiered SEA based on the issues identified during analysis for that SEA, including the input of the OFAs where applicable.
Section 3.1 – Land Use and Planning	New Subsections have been added	***3.1.1.5 National Forest Management Act*** The National Forest Management Act would be applicable to the potential sites located on NFS lands. The implementing regulation at 36 CFR 219.15 requires that projects and activities on NFS lands must be consistent with the appropriate Land Management Plan (forest plan). The two primary components of the forest plan that would be applicable to potential LA-RICS sites on NFS lands are a series of guidelines meant to limit bird mortality, and the Scenic Integrity Objectives for the protection of visual quality. These are discussed further in Sections 3.4 and 3.11. ***3.1.2.5 San Gabriel Mountains National Monument*** The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument was created by President Obama in October 2014. It contains NFS lands formerly within the Angeles National Forest and a small portion of the San Bernardino National Forest. Several of the potential sites listed in Appendix B are on lands within this National

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
		Monument.
Section 3.4.1.2 – Migratory Bird Treaty Act	The following sentence has been added at the end of the section	The USFS has an MOU with USFWS that would be applicable to proposed LMR project sites on NFS lands.
Section 3.4.2.3 – Special Status Species	The following bullet has been added at the end of the section	• USFS Sensitive Species (only for sites on NFS lands)
Section 3.4.2.3 – Special Status Species – Species Protected Under Other Federal Laws	The following bullet has been added	• USFS Sensitive Species, a conservation program to implement statutory requirements to maintain viable populations of wildlife on NFS lands (only applicable on NFS lands
Section 3.7.1.4 - FEMA California Programmatic Agreement 2014	Section has been revised	In October 2014, FEMA, the California SHPO, and Cal OES finalized a PA (California PA) to satisfy and streamline FEMA's Section 106 and Section 110(k) responsibilities for Undertakings in the State of California. FEMA would utilize the PA to fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.2(a)(2). Stipulation I.A.1 of the California PA provides for FEMA to defer Section 106 review to the FCC in accordance with the ACHP Program Comment of October 23, 2009 (extended to September 2025 on September 24, 2015). The approval of funding for the FEMA Undertaking would be conditioned upon the compliance of the subgrantee with FCC's applicable Section 106 review, including any required consultation with Tribes. FEMA would notify the SHPO when it applies the ACHP Program Comment to any Undertaking not addressed in the LMR project initiation letter from FEMA to SHPO dated December 5, 2014, (to which SHPO responded on January 23, 2015).
Section 3.7.1 – Regulatory Background	A new section has been added	***3.7.1.5 USFS Region 5 Programmatic Agreement*** The USFS has a Programmatic Agreement with the California SHPO and ACHP for compliance with Section 106. This PA may be used to satisfy Section 106 Compliance for sites on NFS lands if agreed to by FEMA, FCC, and the USFS (Appendix G).

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
3.11.1.1 Federal Agency Laws and Regulations	Section has been revised	Several Federal regulations address visual quality: NEPA, the Federal Lands Policy Management Act of 1976, National Forest Management Act, Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, National Highway System Act of 1995, Highway Beautification Act of 1965, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, National Trails Act, Antiquities Act, and the Wilderness Act of 1964. Visual quality analysis methodologies have been developed by a few Federal agencies. These include the U.S. Department of Agriculture Scenery Management System Handbook, used by the USFS (1995), ~~Visual Management System developed by the USFS (1974)~~ the Visual Impact Assessment Methodology for Highway Projects developed by the Federal Highway Administration (1986), the Visual Resource Management System developed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (1986), and the Visual Resource Assessment Procedures developed by the USACE (Smardon et al. 1988). The applicability of these Federal regulations would depend on proposed LMR site location and the agency with land management jurisdiction, if any.
Section 3.11.2 – Resource Overview	Third paragraph in the section has been revised	The general visual quality of the Project Area can be categorized based on urban, rural, or remote areas. Urban areas include the Los Angeles Basin and San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys, along with urban portions of the Mojave Desert and Santa Monica Mountains. Views include low-rise residential, commercial, and industrial building façades of varying architectural styles and urban streetscapes where paved streets with curbs and gutters are lined with utility poles, overhead distribution cables, and street lights. Rural sites are characterized by low concentrations of people and activity but are served by infrastructure including roads and power lines. Rural settings include areas in the Mojave Desert, the Santa Monica Mountains, portions of the Los Angeles Basin, the Angeles National Forest, and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Mountains and forested areas are characterized by steep topography and dense vegetation that obstruct building façades and distant views. The high desert region is characterized by distant views of the wide-open landscape, with the San Gabriel Mountains serving as the backdrop in some areas.
Section 3.11.2 – Resource Overview	Paragraph added at the end of the section	On NFS lands, Scenic Integrity Objectives have been mapped according to the USDA Scenery Management System and adopted as a standard in the forest plan (see Section 3.1.1.5). The goal of these objectives is to ensure that site selection and facility design processes take into account measures to limit the scenic impacts. These objectives are only applicable to sites on NFS lands. Many ridgelines and other locations on NFS lands in the project area that are likely to have telecommunication infrastructure are in areas of high or moderate Scenic Integrity Objective, which is consistent with the assumed scenic sensitivity discussed above
Section 3.12.2 – Resource Overview	Section has been revised	Although not all Federal lands are necessarily devoted to recreational values, they often provides for recreational use as an element of the principals for which the land is managed. This includes land administered by the USFS, BLM, and NPS and may include land specifically designated for recreational use.

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
		The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Angeles National Forest, and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument are some of the largest tracts of land in the Project Area that contribute importantly to recreational opportunities in the local and regional community. These Federal lands are of even higher value given the high degree of urbanization and lack of available open space in much of the project area. Available opportunities include camping, rock climbing, biking, horseback riding, swimming, hiking, and enjoying nature. Designated recreational trails, ranging from the interstate Pacific Crest Trail to local community bicycle paths, are located within or pass through the Project Area. California state parks, regional parks, community and neighborhood parks, and open spaces are the most prevalent recreational features in the Project Area.
Section 4.1.2.2 General Consequences of Site Types - Land Use Plans, Policies, and Regulations – Construction	Section has been revised	FEMA would require the Authority to review each LMR project site description against other applicable local land use plans and local zoning ordinances to analyze potential inconsistencies for purposes of identifying any physical environmental impacts. The Authority is not subject to certain local land-use plans and policies because under the California Government Code § 53090(a) and 53091(a), the Authority is exempt from the definition of "Local Agency"; and therefore the Authority is not required to comply with "all applicable building ordinances and zoning ordinances of the county or city in which the territory of the local agency is situated." However, the Authority would conform to the County General Plan, and would obtain the necessary construction permits, right-of-way access permits, or equivalent from authorities with jurisdiction over the proposed LMR project site prior to construction. As construction would not occur without required approvals, construction permits, right-of-way access permits, or equivalent requirements, no adverse impacts to land use would be expected to occur. ~~No further analysis is required by FEMA for determination of consistency with local land use plans, policies, or regulations.~~ Telecommunication facilities currently exist on NFS lands in the project area, and the forest plan generally allows for the installation of telecommunication facilities such as those proposed under the LMR project. Site-specific activities that follow the forest plan standards and guidelines would be consistent with the forest plan and would result in no adverse effect. On NFS lands, the activities at specific sites may not be consistent with forest plan standards and guidelines for avian species protection and Scenic Integrity Objectives. The Forest Supervisor has the authority to approve projects that do not meet forest plan criteria by making a project site-specific amendment. If such

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
		an amendment was necessary, it would be considered an adverse effect but would not be a substantial adverse effect, because it would apply only to the specific LMR sites on NFS lands and would not make a long-term change to the forest plan standards. Any proposed LMR sites in the National Monument that are already developed as communications sites and designated for that use would be allowable land uses in the National Monument, as would any new locations, because the Presidential Proclamation specifically allows new communication uses. The USFS may require additional mitigation measures beyond those described in this PEA to protect objects of interest named in the Presidential Proclamation. This additional USFS-specific mitigation would be described, at minimum, in the USFS's NEPA compliance documentation for the pertinent LMR site. Based on these factors, the LMR project sites in the National Monument would be consistent with the purposes and provisions of the Proclamation.
Section 4.3.2.1 – Geotechnical Investigations – Floodplain	Sentence added to last paragraph	Geotechnical investigations at proposed LMR project sites that are located within the floodplain could result in indirect support of floodplain development if LMR facilities are constructed at the site. If geotechnical investigations are proposed at sites within the floodplain, FEMA would comply with EO 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9 prior to approval of the specific geotechnical investigation, as described in Section 3.3.1.3. Compliance with EO 11988 would ensure that adverse impacts to the floodplain would be minimized. FEMA has utilized the notice of the FONSI for this PEA to serve as the Initial Public Notice for compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 44 CFR § 9.8 in the event that activities at an LMR site may affect or be affected by the floodplain.
Section 4.3.2.1 – Geotechnical Investigations – Wetlands	Sentence added to first paragraph	None of the LMR project site locations defined at the time of the release of this PEA would be located in wetlands; therefore, no impacts to wetlands are anticipated, and further analysis would not be warranted. If it is later determined that a proposed LMR project site would be sited in wetlands and geotechnical investigations need to occur in wetlands or could result in LMR site development in wetlands, FEMA would need to comply with EO 11990 and 44 CFR Part 9 prior to approval of the specific geotechnical investigation, as described in Section 3.3.1.4. FEMA has utilized the notice of the FONSI for this PEA to serve as the Initial Public Notice for compliance with Executive Orders 11990 and 44 CFR § 9.8 in the event that activities at an LMR site may affect or be affected by a wetland.
Section 4.3.2.2 General Consequences – Floodplains –	Sentence added to first paragraph	If an LMR project site is proposed for installation in a floodplain, FEMA would comply with EO 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9 prior to approval of the activities proposed at the project site, as described in Section 3.3.1.3. Compliance with EO 11988 would ensure that adverse impacts to the floodplain would be minimized. FEMA has utilized the notice of the FONSI for this PEA to serve as the Initial Public Notice for compliance with

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
Construction		Executive Orders 11988 and 44 CFR § 9.8 in the event that activities at an LMR site may affect or be affected by the floodplain.
Section 4.3.2.2 General Consequences – Wetlands – Construction	Sentence added to second paragraph	In the unlikely event that LMR project sites were sited in a manner that would potentially affect wetlands, FEMA would comply with EO 11990 and 44 CFR Part 9 prior to approval of the activities proposed at the project site, as described in Section 3.3.1.4. Compliance with EO 11990 would ensure that adverse impacts to wetlands would be minimized. FEMA has utilized the notice of the FONSI for this PEA to serve as the Initial Public Notice for compliance with Executive Orders 11990 and 44 CFR § 9.8 in the event that activities at an LMR site may affect or be affected by a wetland.
Section 4.4.2 – Proposed Action – Compliance with Section 7 of the ESA	Second paragraph has been revised	A biological resources report (BRR) has been developed and submitted to USFWS to support informal consultation. FEMA has made a determination of no effect or may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect individual listed species for all known sites included in the BRR. The BRR includes conservation measures to ensure avoidance or minimization of potential effects to listed species and their critical habitat, and FEMA would require that the Authority implement these measures. In a letter dated January 29, 2016, USFWS indicated that consultation was not yet complete, but noted their agreement with the proposed approach for subsequent Section 7 consultation outlined in the BRR. The BRR provides a base for additional coordination between FEMA and the USFWS under Section 7 of the ESA if and when a new LMR project site is proposed. If USFWS concurs with FEMA's determination, FEMA has completed its compliance with Section 7 of the ESA for those sites.
Section 4.4.2.1 – Geotechnical Investigations – Wildlife	Sentence has been added at the end of the section	For sites on NFS lands, these measures are consistent with the MOU between USFS and USFWS, pursuant to EO 13186.

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
Section 4.4.2.2 – General Consequences of Site Types – Vegetation – Construction	Paragraph has been added at the end of the section	Sites on NFS lands may require more specific mitigation to prevent the spread of invasive plants, which may include an Invasive Risk Assessment. The need for this additional mitigation would be determined through coordination of site-specific reviews by FEMA and USFS. Any additional USFS-specific mitigation, if necessary, would be described, at minimum, in the USFS's NEPA compliance documentation for the pertinent LMR site.
Section 4.4.2.2 – General Consequences of Site Types – Special Status Species – Construction	Sentence has been added at the end of the section	For sites on NFS lands, these measures are consistent with the MOU between USFS and USFWS, pursuant to EO 13186.
Section 4.4.2.5 – New Lattice – Wildlife – Operations	Discussion at the end of the section has been revised	The towers themselves may injure or kill birds by introducing a collision hazard, especially in more remote areas such as National Forests, and when required to be marked with lights by FAA (Longcore, 2012). This impact is minimized by locating the LMR sites where there are already existing communication towers, by the relatively low height of the towers compared to those known to cause highest mortality, and by the application of mitigation measures. ~~No further analysis is warranted.~~
Section 4.4.2.5 – New Lattice – *Special Status Species – Operations*	Sentence has been added at the end of the section	The potential for collision impacts described for general wildlife may occur for special-status bird species, but is likely to be minimized for the same reasons.
Section 4.11.2.5 – New Lattice Towers – Operations	Last paragraph of the section has been revised and additional text has been added	Where antenna ~~support structures~~ farms are not already present within areas of high or moderate visual sensitivity, installation of a new lattice tower could affect visual resources. The view of a new lattice tower in a visually sensitive location that does not already contain views of an antenna farm ~~similar structures~~ would introduce a vertical, new, man-made structure that may contrast with and be incompatible with the existing visual features and, therefore, may result in an adverse impact to visual quality and the visual

PEA Section	Description	Text Change
		setting. If the Authority proposes a new lattice tower that is not at an existing antenna farm, the Authority would determine and document if the site is in an area of high or medium visual sensitivity utilizing the Visual Impact Assessment for Highway Projects by the Federal Highway Administration or other appropriate method. If a new lattice tower would be located in an area with high or medium visual sensitivity, 1) the Authority would eliminate the LMR project site from further consideration; or 2) FEMA would prepare an SEA, as described in Section 1.2 above. New lattice towers on NFS lands could result in adverse changes to visual quality due to the potential height of the structures. If a landscape has a natural appearance, new towers could detract from its scenic values that forest plan Scenic Integrity Objectives would not be met. In such a circumstance, a forest plan amendment, as described in Section 4.1.2.2, would need to be approved by USFS prior to USFS approval for the Authority to construct or operate the specific LMR site. Through its permitting process, USFS may require tower heights to be reduced or request design modifications as conditions of its permit. Design modification could include specification of certain building materials to avoid or minimize this impact. USFS could also require mitigation in the form of compensation as defined in NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1508.20 [e]). For new lattice towers, USFS may require the Authority to prepare a site-specific analysis using the USDA Scenery Management System to determine the specific level of impact and corresponding mitigation. Any additional USFS-specific mitigation, if necessary, would be described, at minimum, in the USFS's NEPA compliance documentation for the pertinent LMR site.
Section 4.11.2.6 – New Monopoles – Operations	Paragraph has been added at the end of the section	For LMR sites on NFS lands, monopoles would be more likely than new lattice towers to meet Scenic Integrity Objectives, and would be expected to require a lesser level of mitigation. Any additional USFS-specific mitigation, if necessary, would be described, at minimum, in the USFS's NEPA compliance documentation for the pertinent LMR site.
7.0 References	New reference has been added	Longcore T., C. Rich, P. Mineau, B. MacDonald, D.G. Bert, and L.M. Sullivan. 2012. An Estimate of Avian Mortality at Communication Towers in the United States and Canada. PLoS ONE 7(4): e34025. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0034025.

This page intentionally left blank