



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR A DRAFT PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: February 25, 2008
To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies/Interested Organizations and Individuals
Project: Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) Project

Lead Agency

County of Riverside
Department of Facilities Management
P.O. Box 789
Riverside, CA 92502-0789
Email: EIR@co.riverside.ca.us
Project website: <http://psec.co.riverside.ca.us>

Consultant Firm Preparing the Draft EIR

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This Notice of Preparation (NOP) includes a summary project description and a list of the environmental issues to be examined in the Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) project.

The environmental determination in this Notice of Preparation is subject to a 30-day public review period per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21080.4 and CEQA Guidelines §15082. Public agencies, interested organizations, and individuals have the opportunity to comment on the proposed project and identify those environmental issues that they believe have the potential to be affected by the project and should be addressed by the County of Riverside (County) in the EIR.

The public review period for this NOP is February 28, 2008 to March 31, 2008. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Project Purpose and Need

The County of Riverside's fire and law enforcement agencies currently utilize approximately 20 communication sites to provide voice and data transmission capabilities to assigned personnel in the field. As currently configured, the system provides coverage to only about 60 percent of the County. The communication system now in use is at the end of its useful life, and is no longer adequate to meet the County's coverage and capacity needs. Population growth within the County is necessitating the expansion of the coverage footprint. Additionally, due to increases in the

County's radio usage, additional traffic-carrying capacity is required to meet the needs of emergency services personnel as they serve the public. The proposed project is the expansion of the system's capabilities and its associated infrastructure. The new system is urgently needed to ensure the safety of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and the public.

Project Description

The PSEC project would expand the County's radio tower network from the current 20 sites to approximately 70 sites throughout the County. Some sites are located outside of the County including sites in San Bernardino, San Diego and Orange counties. These sites are necessary to provide coverage in the more remote areas of the County. The expansion will increase the operational coverage of the emergency services telecommunications system to approximately 95 percent of the County's land area, and will also provide greatly expanded voice and data transmission capability. The new system will also provide coverage in high priority buildings, such as courthouses, jail facilities, sheriff, and fire stations. Design, approval, and construction of the network is projected to take two to three years.

To meet the coverage requirements of the project, it is likely that an additional 50 tower sites will need to be constructed region-wide. **A map showing the locations of existing and proposed facilities is attached.** Tower sites would be typical of existing County communications facilities. **A series of photographs of typical facilities is also attached.** The sites would be composed of a steel tower, an equipment building, and necessary electrical and road access. The typical site footprint would be approximately 100 feet by 100 feet. The extent of ground disturbance associated with each site generally falls into one of two categories. Each type is described below:

Type A: New Build/Existing Disturbed Area

Most of the proposed sites fall within this category. In these situations, towers would be constructed adjacent to existing "antennae farms" or other telecommunication facilities, or in other previously disturbed areas adjacent to existing roadways. In this manner, ground disturbance would be minimized and the construction of new roads, powerlines, and other significant infrastructure would be largely avoided. In most cases, ground disturbance would be limited to that area required for the construction of the tower and equipment building.

Type B: New Build/Non-Disturbed Area

This category includes sites that are on undisturbed raw land with no preexisting facilities or infrastructure. Sites within this category would require the construction of new towers, equipment buildings, new or improved roads, and electrical transmission lines. For several of the more remote sites, the provision of commercial power is not practical. In these cases, the electricity required to serve the sites will be generated onsite using solar panels and/or diesel/propane-powered generators.

Detailed location information for each proposed site can be found in **Table 1**. The information provided includes the latitude, longitude, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN), the relative location of each site, ownership information, the proposed tower height, and the type of build (Type A or B as described above).

Environmental Issues to be Evaluated in the EIR

Given the broad geographic nature of the project and the variety of environmental issues that could be encountered with a project of this type, the County has determined that a Program EIR will be prepared for the project. The EIR will evaluate each of the applicable impact issue areas listed in the CEQA Guidelines and provided below:

Aesthetics
Air Quality
Biological Resources
Cultural Resources
Geology and Soils

Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Hydrology and Water Resources
Land Use and Planning
Noise

The EIR will assess the project's potential environmental impacts for each of the issues listed above. Where necessary, mitigation measures will be identified that can lessen the project's impacts. A final determination of the significance of the impact (i.e., no impact, less than significant impact, and significant impact) will be made.

The EIR will be used by the County to gain an understanding of the project's environmental impacts. Since components of this project are located on lands not under the direct jurisdiction of the County, the EIR will also be used by other agencies and jurisdictions to guide their decision-making processes. For those sites that are proposed for construction on federal lands (Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service), appropriate environmental review will be undertaken by those agencies (or their designees) to comply with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Opportunity to Comment

Agencies, organizations, and individuals have the opportunity to comment on the scope and content of the environmental issues to be included in the EIR. Agencies, organizations, and individuals making written comments may do so within the NOP response period. E-mailed comments will also be accepted, using the contact information provided below. The County has also developed a website for the project. Visitors to the site may provide comments there, and the site will also contain useful information that will be updated as the project moves forward.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please include the name, phone number, and address of your organization's contact person with your response. **Please note that the NOP review/response period will be February 28, 2008 through March 31, 2008.**

All comments should be directed to:

County of Riverside
Department of Facilities Management
ATTN: Ms. Ashley Mitchell
P.O. Box 789
Riverside, CA 92502-0789
Email: EIR@co.riverside.ca.us
Website: <http://psec.co.riverside.ca.us>

Table 1: Proposed Site Information

| Site Name | APN ¹ | Latitude ² | Longitude ² | Relative Location | Ownership ³ | Tower Height (feet) ⁴ | Build Type ⁵ |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Arlington | 145-120-002 | 33° 55' 04.2" | 117° 27' 31.2" | Located within a major County administrative facility in the City of Riverside at intersection of Hole Avenue and County Circle Drive | Riverside County | 80 | A |
| Avocado Flats | 101-280-20-00 (San Diego County) | 33°26' 57.2" | 117°16' 21.0" | Located adjacent to a water tank approximately 0.75 miles S of the Riverside/San Diego County line and 8 miles ESE of Temecula | BLM | 60 | A |
| Big Maria | 815-090-021 | 33° 45' 04.0" | 114° 31' 27.1" | Located within a major communications facility approximately 0.5 miles W of U.S. 95 and 11 miles N of Blythe | BLM | 60 | A |
| Black Eagle | 701-370-008 | 33° 52' 33.2" | 115° 31' 57.1" | Located within the Black Eagle Mine property, approximately 14 miles NW of Desert Center | Private (County to lease) | 80 | A |
| Black Jack | 809-190-002 | 33° 49' 34.7" | 114° 51' 39.6" | Located SW of the Little Maria Mountains approximately 5 miles W of the Midland-Rice Road and 22 miles NW of Blythe | BLM | 60 | B |
| Black Rock | 818-231-027 | 33° 36' 50.0" | 114° 46' 09.8" | Located within an existing communications facility, 0.25 miles N of I-10 and 10 miles W of Blythe | Riverside County | 200 | A |
| Blue Mountain | 1178-191-04 (San Bernardino County) | 34° 01' 20.0" | 117° 17' 46.5" | Located adjacent to a major communications facility atop Blue Mountain 1.25 miles SE of Grand Terrace | Private (County to lease) | 40 | A |
| Blythe (Candidate A) | 845-123-020 | 33° 36' 49.57" | 114° 35' 52.66" | Located at the existing County communication site at Fire Station 43 in Blythe, at the intersection of Barnard Street and Spring Street | Riverside County | 100 | A |

Table 1: Proposed Site Information (Cont.)

| Site Name | APN ¹ | Latitude ² | Longitude ² | Relative Location | Ownership ³ | Tower Height (feet) ⁴ | Build Type ⁵ |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Blythe (Candidate B) | 845-122-017, 018 | 33° 36' 47.0" | 114° 35' 55.5" | Located across Spring Street from the County Sheriff's station in central Blythe | Private (County to purchase) | 100 | A |
| Brookside | 407-170-010 | 33° 57' 48.7" | 117° 00' 20.9" | Located within the County maintenance and materials yard on the NW corner of Brookside Avenue and Hannon Road approximately 3 miles NW of Beaumont | Riverside County | 120 | A |
| Cajalco | 278-150-005 | 33° 50' 11.9" | 117° 29' 34.3" | Located adjacent to an MWD water tower approximately 1.75 miles NE of the I-15/Cajalco Road interchange | MWD (County to lease) | 240 | A |
| Corn Springs | 810-181-001 | 33° 40' 53" | 115° 14' 55.1" | Located adjacent to an existing communications tower approximately 0.25 miles S of I-10 and 9 miles E of Valley Center | BLM | 100 | A |
| Corona | 118-270-016 | 33° 52' 45.0" | 117° 34' 48.1" | Located within the CNUSD maintenance yard at the intersection of West 5th Street and South Buena Vista Avenue in the City of Corona | CNUSD (County to lease) | 100 | A |
| Cottonwood | 705-180-011 | 33° 44' 51.6" | 115° 49' 11.2" | Located within the NPS maintenance yard at the Cottonwood Visitor Center in Joshua Tree National Park | NPS | 120 | A |
| El Cariso (Candidate A) | 125-120-12 (Orange County) | 33° 38' 43.5" | 117° 26' 36.8" | Located adjacent to the El Cariso Hotshot Camp | CNF | 100 | A |
| El Cariso (Candidate D) | 125-120-12 (Orange County) | 33° 39' 12.4" | 117° 26' 44.1" | Located at a EVMWD water tank at end of Forest Service Road 6S05, approximately 1 mile N of El Cariso Hotshot Camp | CNF | 100 | A |
| Elsinore Peak | 382-090-004 | 33° 36' 08.2" | 117° 20' 35.9" | Located within a major communications facility atop Elsinore Peak in the Elsinore Mountains approximately 5 miles SSW of Lake Elsinore | CNF | 120 | A |

Table 1: Proposed Site Information (Cont.)

| Site Name | APN ¹ | Latitude ² | Longitude ² | Relative Location | Ownership ³ | Tower Height (feet) ⁴ | Build Type ⁵ |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Estelle Mountain (Candidate P) | 391-290-014 | 33° 45' 34.6" | 117° 25' 35.9" | Located atop a ridgeline overlooking the Temescal Valley, approximately 1.75 miles NE of the I-15/Indian Truck Trail interchange and 11 miles SE of Corona | RCHCA (County to lease) | 100 | B |
| Estelle Mountain (Candidate D) | 391-290-017 | 33° 45' 33.0" | 117° 25' 49.0" | Located atop a ridgeline overlooking the Temescal Valley, approximately 1.75 miles NE of the I-15/Indian Truck Trail interchange and 11 miles SE of Corona | RCHCA | 100 | B |
| Glen Avon | 173-030-009 | 34° 01' 27.0" | 117° 30' 11.5" | Located adjacent to several existing water tanks operated by the JCSD in the Jurupa Mountains approximately 0.5 miles NNE of the Highway 60/Mission Boulevard interchange | JCSD (County to lease) | 100 | A |
| Gold Crown | 0592-151-01 (San Bernardino County) | 34° 03' 33.2" | 115° 42' 57.0" | Located in the Pinto Mountains approximately 4 miles S of Highway 62 and 20 miles ESE of Twentynine Palms | BLM | 100 | B |
| Green River | 101-040-009 | 33° 53' 21.6" | 117° 38' 58.7" | Located atop a ridgeline overlooking Highway 91 approximately 0.25 miles W of Prado Dam and 0.75 miles NW of the Highway 91/Highway 71 interchange | Private (County to purchase) | 160 | A |
| Homeland | 457-340-027 | 33° 44' 50.0" | 117° 07' 39.3" | Located adjacent to County Fire Station 54 at the intersection of Triple Crown Road and Sultanas Road approximately 3.5 miles E of the I-215/Highway 74 interchange | Riverside County | 100 | A |
| Iron Mountain | 0643-221-07 (San Bernardino County) | 34° 09' 03.9" | 115° 08' 27.1" | Located adjacent to several communications towers in the Iron Mountains approximately 1 mile W of the Iron Mountain Pumping Plant and 9 miles NNE of the Highway 62/Highway 177 junction | MWD (County to lease) | 80 | A |

Table 1: Proposed Site Information (Cont.)

| Site Name | APN ¹ | Latitude ² | Longitude ² | Relative Location | Ownership ³ | Tower Height (feet) ⁴ | Build Type ⁵ |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Joshua Tree | 0589-091-10 (San Bernardino County) | 34° 04' 53.1" | 116° 20' 34.3" | Located adjacent to an existing communications tower on a low peak known locally as "Nolina Peak" in the northern Little San Bernardino Mountains approximately 3.75 miles S of Highway 62 and 5.5 miles SE of Yucca Valley | Private (County to lease) | 150 | A |
| Lake Elsinore | 373-121-002 thru 007 | 33° 40' 04.0" | 117° 19' 07.5" | Located adjacent to an existing communications tower approximately .5 miles E of Lake Elsinore and 0.5 miles SW of I-15 | Private (County to purchase) | 150 | A |
| Lake Mathews | 285-120-030 | 33° 50' 19.3" | 117° 22' 10.9" | Located adjacent to the MWD facility on El Sobrante Road approximately 0.25 miles NNW of the intersection of El Sobrante Road and Cajalco Road | MWD (County to lease) | 160 | A |
| Lake Riverside | 580-140-014 | 33° 29' 30.7" | 116° 47' 16.0" | Located at 43540 Cowboy Country Road, approximately 1 mile SE of Highway 371 and 5.5 miles NE of the Highway 79/Highway 371 junction | Private (County to lease) | 80 | A |
| Leona | 321-190-005 | 33° 47' 59.9" | 117° 19' 06.1" | Located adjacent to Idaleona Road approximately 2.5 miles S of Cajalco Road and 5.25 miles W of Perris | Riverside County | 180 | B |
| Line | 733-270-015 | 33° 25' 54.0" | 115° 50' 08.2" | Located on the NE shore of the Salton Sea adjacent to Highway 111, approximately 8 miles NW of Bombay Beach | Private (County to purchase) | 330 | B |
| Margarita (Candidate D) | 922-230-026 | 33° 27' 31.2" | 117° 07' 43.9" | Located E of I-15 adjacent to Rainbow Canyon Road, approximately 2.5 miles SSE of Temecula | Private (County to purchase) | 75 | A |
| Margarita (Candidate E) | 918-140-013 | 33 ° 27' 20.6" | 117 ° 08' 00.1" | Located 700 feet E of I-15, approximately 2.7 miles SSE of Temecula | Private (County to purchase) | 75 | A |

Table 1: Proposed Site Information (Cont.)

| Site Name | APN ¹ | Latitude ² | Longitude ² | Relative Location | Ownership ³ | Tower Height (feet) ⁴ | Build Type ⁵ |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Margarita (Candidate B) | 922-220-013 | 33° 27' 58.0" | 117° 08' 30.5" | Located adjacent to an existing communications tower above the Santa Margarita River, approximately 0.25 miles W of I-15 and 2 miles S of Temecula | SDSUF (County to lease) | 75 | A |
| Marshell | 289-230-023 | 33° 47' 02.1" | 117° 22' 43.7" | Located adjacent to EMWD water tanks near Rocky Bluff Road, approximately 1.25 miles SW of the intersection of Lake Mathews Drive and Gavilan Road and 5 miles SE of Lake Mathews | Private (County to purchase) | 80 | A |
| Mead Valley | 318-180-060 | 33° 49' 56.7" | 117° 17' 14.4" | Located adjacent to County Fire Station 59 at the intersection of Clark Street and Pinewood Street, 0.5 miles S of Cajalco Road | Riverside County | 100 | A |
| Mecca Landfill | 727-242-012 | 33° 34' 19.0" | 116° 0' 1.0" | Located adjacent to the County landfill at the intersection of Avenue 66 and the Coachella Canal, approximately 4.5 miles E of Mecca | Riverside County | 160 | B |
| Menifee | 360-290-016 | 33° 38' 57.3" | 117° 12' 20.3" | Located adjacent to County Fire Station 68 at the intersection of Murrieta Road and Wickerd Road, approximately 2 miles W of the I-215/Scott Road interchange | Riverside County | 100 | A |
| Morongo | 523-140-003 | 33° 55' 37.2" | 116° 45' 13.6" | Located 0.5 miles N of I-10, approximately 2 miles ENE of Cabazon | Private (County to purchase) | 80 | B |
| Paradise | 123-080-052 | 33° 55' 03.7" | 117° 31' 53.5" | Located in the vicinity of several communications facilities atop a ridge overlooking Norco, approximately 1.5 miles E of I-15 | Private (County to purchase) | 100 | A |

Table 1: Proposed Site Information (Cont.)

| Site Name | APN ¹ | Latitude ² | Longitude ² | Relative Location | Ownership ³ | Tower Height (feet) ⁴ | Build Type ⁵ |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Quail Valley | 351-111-002, -003 | 33° 41' 23.9" | 117° 15' 28.3" | Located adjacent to a water tank and several existing communications towers atop a ridge overlooking Canyon Lake, approximately 3 miles NE of the I-15/Railroad Canyon Road interchange | Private (County to purchase) | 100 | A |
| Rancho Carrillo (Candidate B) | 901-060-012 | 33° 33' 13.1" | 117° 28' 16.6" | Located adjacent to the Rancho Carrillo Community Center in the community of Rancho Carrillo, approximately 4.5 miles E of Highway 74 | Private (County to lease) | 100 | A |
| Rancho Carrillo (Candidate E) | 901-040-009 | 33° 33' 36.9" | 117° 27' 49.6" | Located at the northeastern edge of the community of Rancho Carrillo, 300 feet north of a water tank | Private (County to purchase) | 100 | A |
| Ranger Peak | 545-130-015 | 33° 50' 36.5" | 116° 49' 30.6" | Located in the San Jacinto Mountains adjacent to an existing communications facility near the summit of Ranger Peak, approximately 1 mile NW of the Vista Grande Fire Station and Highway 243 | SBNF | 100 | A |
| Red Mountain | 569-050-013 | 33° 37' 46.1" | 116° 50' 54.1" | Located adjacent to the Red Mountain Lookout and an existing communications facility at the end of Forest Service Road 6S22 in the southwestern San Jacinto Mountains, approximately 2.5 miles SW of Tripp Flats and 11 miles NW of Anza | SBNF | 80 | A |
| Redondo Mesa | 932-060-052 | 33° 29' 46.5" | 117° 20' 42.8" | Located atop Redondo Mesa adjacent to a RCWD water tank and an existing communications facility, approximately 0.5 miles S of Tenaja Road and 10 miles WSW of the I-15/I-215 junction | RCWD (County to lease) | 100 | A |

Table 1: Proposed Site Information (Cont.)

| Site Name | APN ¹ | Latitude ² | Longitude ² | Relative Location | Ownership ³ | Tower Height (feet) ⁴ | Build Type ⁵ |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rice | 801-080-003 | 34° 04' 45.1" | 114° 47' 07.3" | Located adjacent to several communications towers in the Rice Valley, 600 feet S of Highway 62 and 15 miles SW of Vidal Junction | BLM | 200 | A |
| Road 177 | 800-101-036 | 33° 52' 54.3" | 115° 15' 07.6" | Located adjacent to an existing communications tower 400 feet W of Highway 177 and approximately 15 miles N of Desert Center | BLM | 100 | A |
| Santa Rosa Peak | 636-210-010 | 33° 32' 42.4" | 116° 28' 09.9" | Located at an existing County communications facility adjacent to Forest Service Road 7S02 in the Santa Rosa Mountains, approximately 0.5 miles NNW of Santa Rosa Spring and 2.75 miles S of Pinyon Flat and Highway 74 | Riverside County | 60 | A |
| Santiago Peak | 290-170-012 | 33° 42' 41.9" | 117° 31' 51.8" | Located within a complex of several major communications facilities atop Santiago Peak in the Santa Ana Mountains, approximately 11 miles S of Corona | CNF | 60 | A |
| Spring Hill | 860-040-015 | 33° 29' 32.3" | 115° 16' 22.4" | Located in the southern Chuckwalla Mountains, approximately 0.5 miles NW of San Augustine Pass and 1.75 miles NE of Bradshaw Road and the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range, and 13 miles S of I-10 | BLM | 330 | B |
| Sunnyslope | 183-240-027 | 33° 59' 48.3" | 117° 26' 42.8" | Located adjacent to a JCSD water tank near the intersection of Camino Real and Cottontail Court, approximately 1.25 miles SSW of the Highway 60/Mission Boulevard interchange | JCSD (County to lease) | 100 | A |
| Temescal | 283-150-017 | 33° 46' 49.4" | 117° 29' 26.5" | Located atop a low ridge 300 feet W of I-15, approximately 0.25 miles NNW of the I-15/Temescal Canyon interchange and 12.5 miles NW of Lake Elsinore | CNUSD (County to purchase) | 150 | A |

Table 1: Proposed Site Information (Cont.)

| Site Name | APN ¹ | Latitude ² | Longitude ² | Relative Location | Ownership ³ | Tower Height (feet) ⁴ | Build Type ⁵ |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Timoteo | 473-110-019 | 33° 58' 16.7" | 117° 09' 28.7" | Located in the San Timoteo Badlands, 500 feet W of Redlands Boulevard and 1.5 miles S of the intersection of San Timoteo Canyon Road and Redlands Boulevard | RCHCA (County to lease) | 100 | B |
| Vaquero | 939-110-002 | 33° 28' 51.6" | 117° 11' 01.3" | Located adjacent to two RCWD water tanks and an existing communications facility abutting Calle Escadera Road, approximately 2.25 miles SW of Temecula | RCWD (County to lease) | 45 | A |
| Vidal Junction | 0647-321-20 (San Bernardino County) | 34° 11' 37.9" | 114° 29' 22.1" | Located at an existing communications facility 250 feet S of Highway 62 and 5 miles E of Vidal Junction | BLM | 170 | A |
| Whitewater | 516-130-011 | 33° 55' 26.2" | 116° 37' 01.1" | Located at an existing County communications facility situated within the major "windmill farm" located near the junction of I-10 and Highway 62 | BLM | 100 | A |
| Wileys Well | 818-112-004 | 33° 36' 18.5" | 114° 54' 9.3" | Located adjacent to an existing communications facility immediately W of Wiley Well Road, 0.25 miles S of the I-10/Wiley Well Road interchange and 18 miles W of Blythe | BLM | 150 | A |
| Winchester | 465-050-019 | 33° 44' 10.0" | 117° 03' 48.8" | Located adjacent to several existing communications towers approximately 0.75 miles ESE of the intersection of Highway 74 and Winchester Road, 2.5 miles NNE of Winchester | Private (County to lease) | 140 | A |

Table 1: Proposed Site Information (Cont.)

Notes:

- 1 – Unless noted otherwise, all Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) are located within Riverside County
- 2 – All coordinates utilize NAD83 datum
- 3 – See abbreviation list
- 4 – All towers are anticipated to be three-legged, self-supporting towers, with the exception of Line, which will be supported by guy lines.
- 5 – **Build Type “A”** = Sites located adjacent to existing communications facilities or in other previously disturbed areas adjacent to existing roadways and electrical power supplies. Sites within this category would require minimal ground disturbance for their construction.
Build Type “B” = Sites located on raw land with no preexisting facilities or infrastructure. Sites in this category would require the construction of new towers, equipment buildings, new or improved roads, and electrical transmission lines.

Abbreviations:

- BLM = Bureau of Land Management
- CNF = Cleveland National Forest
- CNUSD = Corona-Norco Unified School District
- EMWD = Eastern Municipal Water District
- EVMWD = Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
- JCSD = Jurupa Community Services District
- MWD = Metropolitan Water District
- NPS = National Park Service (Joshua Tree National Park)
- RCHCA = Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
- RCWD = Rancho California Water District
- SBNF = San Bernardino National Forest
- SDSUF = San Diego State University Foundation



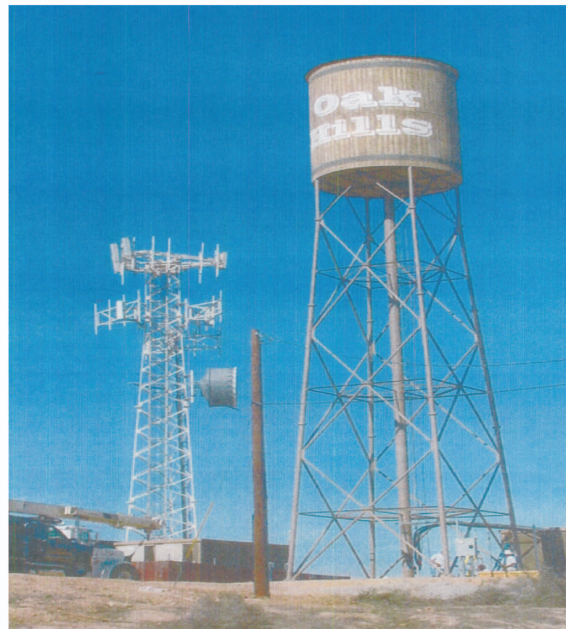
Typical communication tower in an urban setting (Existing county site in Hemet).



Typical communication tower in a rural setting (Existing county site west of Blythe).



Communication tower disguised as a fire lookout tower.



Communication tower disguised as a water tower.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



Michael Brandman Associates

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PSEC Project Typical Communication Facilities

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT

Public Safety Enterprise Communication Project

Working together for the safety of Riverside County

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. Why is this project important?

The county's public safety radio network is aging and cannot reach some of our newest neighborhoods. Today, county firefighters and law-enforcement officers use the radio more than ever to talk and send data. The new system will expand coverage and build radio links to other agencies that will help protect the public and our safety officers.

2. How will the project help me and my family?

In an emergency, seconds can make a difference. Firefighters and officers need instant, reliable communication, whether the danger comes from wildfire or someone trying to break into your home. The new system will give public safety teams the communications tool they need.

3. Will the project have environmental impacts?

Biological and cultural resource surveys were conducted to select proposed communications sites. Surveys emphasized using existing sites and already-disturbed areas to minimize effects on the community and the environment. Sites have been evaluated for potential effects on factors that include views and landuse compatibility. When unavoidable impacts have been identified, all feasible steps will be taken to minimize or eliminate the impacts.

4. Does the project pose any health risks?

No. Radio frequency (RF) energy is commonly used in telecommunications, including radio and television broadcasting, cellular telephones and public safety radios. Numerous studies have demonstrated that the level of RF exposure in these instances is negligible and will not harm people.

5. How can I register comments about the project?

You can find information about the project at <http://psec.co.riverside.ca.us>. As the project progresses, more information will be added. Comments can be expressed online at the website and via email or surface mail at:

Email: EIR@co.riverside.ca.us **Surface Mail:** P.O. Box 789, Riverside, CA 92502-0789

6. What comes next?

Detailed site designs will continue. Using public input, a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be created to advise the Board of Supervisors in its decisions about the project. Public comment on the EIR is welcomed. Some sites may require environmental review beyond the EIR as the project design becomes more detailed or if special environmental concerns are identified. The project began in March 2007 and is scheduled to be completed by December 2010.



Goals
PSEC is a cooperative effort between multiple departments. The primary goals of these departments are to address the safety issues for first responders:

- Ease of use
- Reliability
- Increased coverage
- Continuous Training
- Interoperability



Working Together for the Security of Riverside County



Homeland Security

Citizen Protection

Mutual Aid

First Response

Project Summary and Objective

The County of Riverside currently operates an 800 MHz radio system that is lacking in coverage and functionality. The current system has a reduced level of interoperability.

The County of Riverside's fire and law enforcement agencies currently utilizes approximately 20 communication sites to provide voice and data transmission capabilities to assigned personnel in the field. As currently configured, the system provides coverage to only about 60 percent of the County. The communication system now in use is at the end of its useful life, and is no longer adequate to meet the County's coverage and capacity needs. Population growth within the County is necessitating the expansion of the coverage footprint. Additionally, due to increases in the County's radio usage, additional traffic-carrying capacity is required to meet the needs of emergency services personnel to serve the public.

The Public Safety Enterprise Communication project is the expansion of the systems capabilities and its associated infrastructure. The new system is urgently needed to ensure the safety of the public, Sheriff's deputies and firefighters.

When Your Community's Resources are Already Stretched to the Limit

Your public safety agencies are being asked to shoulder greater responsibilities at a time when budgets are tight. Security is a high priority, but it's not the only demand on your local government and its taxpayers. How can you strike a balance while promoting the safety of your citizens? One answer is to leverage the resources of neighboring communities. In South-ern California and across the country, police, fire, EMS, local government and other related departments are learning to work together. Close cooperation allows for more efficient handling of everyday incidents such as region-wide abduction alerts and pursuits that cross municipal borders.



Are your radio networks ready for a large-scale incident?



As if earthquakes, floods, mudslides and fires were not enough, you can add terrorist incidents to the list of events that could require your departments to coordinate a joint response with other jurisdic

tions at a moment's notice. The key is to establish and address both day to day operations and Interoperability with PSEC cities and existing and future regional networks.



“No Man, Woman, or Child Should Lose His or Her Life Because Public Safety Officials Cannot Talk To One Another.”
The Public Safety Wireless



Interoperable Radio is Vital in Daily Emergencies

Our region is vulnerable. Most of the public safety networks now operating within Riverside County function as islands. When a unit from one city leaves its home jurisdiction, radio contact diminishes rapidly. Smaller cities often have no wide-area coverage. Sometimes different departments in the same city are out of contact. It can be difficult

and slow to establish inter-agency communications—a hindrance for normal operations and potentially fatal for disaster response. We can eliminate this weakness with an interoperable network that supports seamless communications across departments and communities. Citizens who call for help could get a response from the closest

vehicle, even if it's from a different agency. Front-line officers in trouble could get help faster and warn others to minimize exposure to high risk situations. Rescuers could establish direct radio contact while their commanders coordinate activities and planning. Inter-operability is crucial. That's why our region is developing PSEC.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need this project?

The County's existing public safety radio communication network provides less than adequate radio coverage, and the current system is at the end of its useful life. Population growth within the County requires the **expansion of the areas covered. Additionally, increases in the County's radio usage necessitate an increase** in traffic-carrying capacity. The existing system does not provide adequate communication and interoperability between the many fire and law enforcement agencies that serve the County and its citizens. The new system is urgently needed to ensure the safety of the public, fire-fighters, and law enforcement officers.

How will the project benefit me? How will it benefit my community?

The new system will allow fire-fighters and law enforcement officers to better serve the public by improving radio communication. During regional emergencies such as the recent fires, or during everyday incidents such as region-wide abduction alerts and pursuits that cross municipal borders, it is vital that these agencies be able to communicate with one another.

Will there be any environmental impacts associated with this project?

A series of biological and cultural resource surveys were conducted to develop the proposed locations. Emphasis was placed on the use of existing communication sites and disturbed areas to minimize community and environmental impacts. The sites have also been assessed for potential impacts to scenic values, land use compatibility, and other factors. In cases where unavoidable impacts have been identified, appropriate mitigation will be implemented to minimize or eliminate the impacts to the extent feasible.

Are there any health risks associated with this project?

No. Radio Frequency (RF) energy is commonly used for telecommunications, including radio and television broadcasting, cellular telephones and the two-way radios used by law enforcement and fire departments. Numerous studies have demonstrated that the level of RF exposure in these instances is negligible and not harmful to humans.

How can I register my comments about the project?

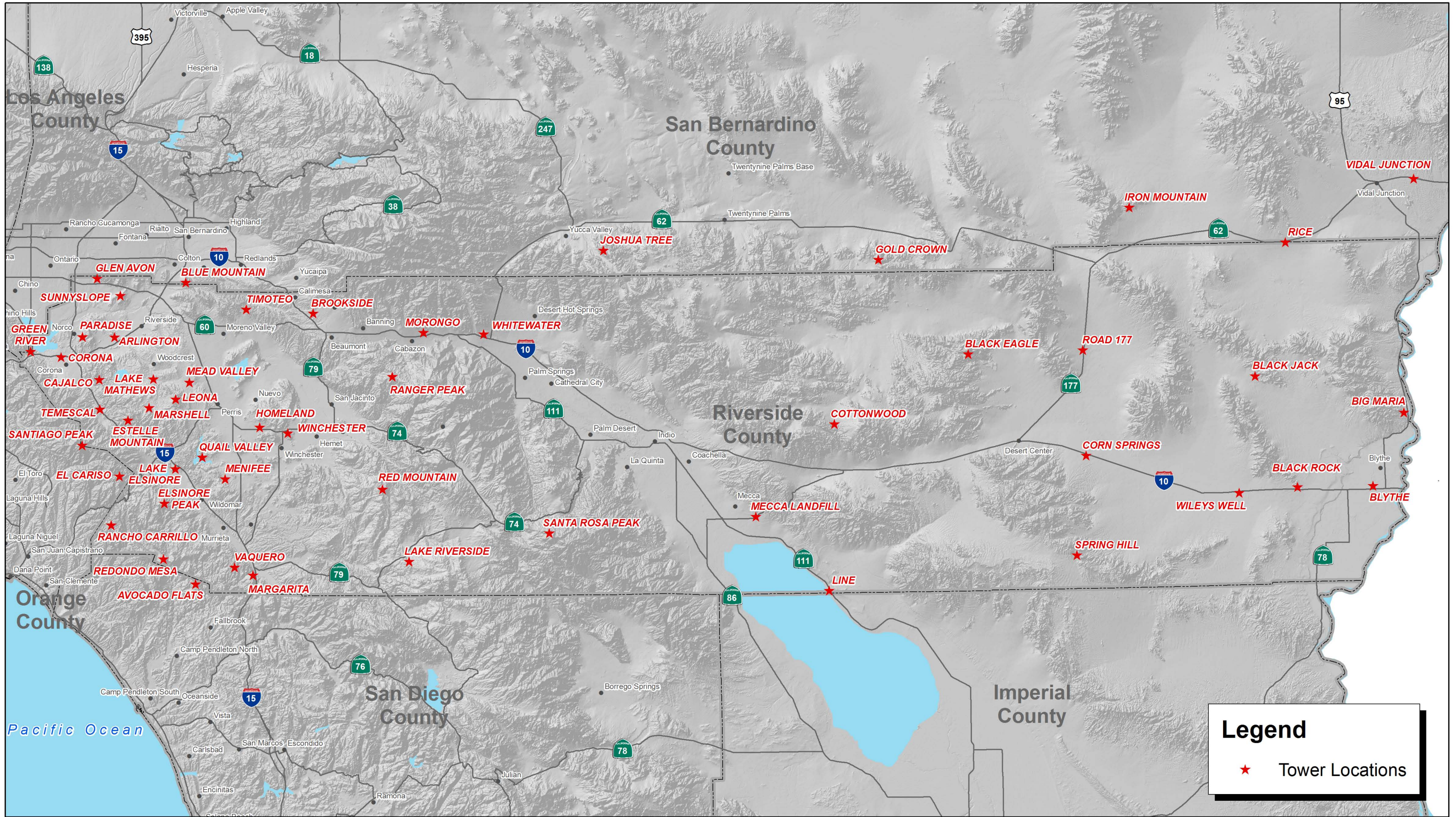
Information about the project can be found at the website provided below. More information will be added to the website as the project progresses. Visitors to the website will be able to provide comments via an online comment form. Comments can also be registered via email or surface mail at the addresses below.

Website: www.countyofriverside.us

Email: EIR@co.riverside.ca.us

Surface Mail: P.O. Box 789, Riverside, CA 92502-0789

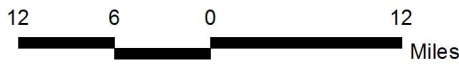




Source: US Census data and Riverside County.



Michael Brandman Associates
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PSEC Project Proposed Communication Facility Locations

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT