



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Notice Of Availability Of Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Date: June 9, 2008
To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies/Interested Organizations and Individuals
Project: Public Safety Enterprise Communications (PSEC) Project (SCH 2008021126)

Lead Agency

County of Riverside
Department of Facilities Management
P.O. Box 789
Riverside, CA 92502-0789
Contact: Ashley Mitchell

Consulting Firm

Michael Brandman Associates
621 E. Carnegie Drive, Suite 100
San Bernardino, CA 92408
Contact: Luke Evans

A DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT for the project described below has been completed and is now available for public review. The DEIR is intended to serve as an informational document for public agency decision-makers and the general public regarding the objectives and components of the proposed project. The document evaluates potentially significant adverse environmental impacts that could be associated with the project, and identifies project changes (mitigation measures) and project alternatives that would reduce or eliminate these impacts. The EIR does not set forth policy for the County about the proposed project's desirability. Rather, the EIR is an informational document to be used by decision-makers, public agencies, and the public. During the project review process, the County must consider all feasible mitigation measures and alternatives developed in the EIR to substantially lessen anticipated environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Project Description

The PSEC project would expand the County's radio tower network from the current 25 sites to approximately 70 sites throughout the County, and some sites outside of the County including sites in San Bernardino, San Diego and Orange counties, that are necessary to provide coverage in the more remote areas of the County. This 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. Design, approval, and construction of the network are projected to take two to three years.

To meet the coverage requirements of the project, it is likely that approximately 50 tower sites will need to be constructed region-wide. Tower sites would be typical of existing County communications facilities. 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 65 feet by 65 feet, or about half the size of a small residential lot. Towers would range in height from 40 to 330 feet.

Significant Impacts on the Environment Anticipated as a Result of the Proposed Project

Aesthetic impacts would exceed significance thresholds. Many of the towers will introduce a visual element that is out of character with the existing visual environment and land use. Some sites would be visible from an Eligible State Scenic Highway. Due to the placement of beacon lighting on some of the taller towers, some sites would have a significant impact on the change to the nighttime environment. No other unavoidable significant impacts were identified in the DIER.

Public Review Period

The County of Riverside is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, and is holding a public review period of the Draft EIR, during which time the public and interested parties are invited to comment on the Draft EIR for the proposed project. **Please note that the public comment period is June 9, 2008 through July 23, 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

Location Where the Draft EIR May Be Reviewed

The Draft EIR may be reviewed online at <http://psec.co.riverside.ca.us>. Paper copies of the document may also be viewed at the County Library Facilities listed below.

Calimesa Library, Calimesa	Mission Trail Library, Wildomar
Coachella Library, Coachella	Norco Library, Norco
Desert Hot Springs Library, Desert Hot Springs	Palm Desert Library, Palm Desert
Glen Avon Library, Riverside	Rubidoux Library, Riverside
Highgrove Library, Highgrove	San Jacinto Library, San Jacinto
Indio Library, Indio	Sun City Library, Sun City
La Quinta Library, La Quinta	Temecula Public Library, Temecula
Lakeside Library, Lake Elsinore	Thousand Palms Library, Thousand Palms
Lake Tamarisk Library, Desert Center	Valle Vista Library, Hemet
Mecca Library, Mecca	Woodcrest Library, Riverside

Next Steps

To be considered, all comments must be received by the end of the public comment period (**June 9, 2008 through July 23, 2008**). Upon completion of the 45-day public review period, responses to all substantive comments concerning the adequacy of the Draft EIR will be prepared and incorporated into a Final EIR. No sooner than 10 days following the submission of the responses to comments to public agencies, the County of Riverside will hold a public hearing to consider certification of the Final EIR and the related discretionary actions concerning project approval.