

PROGRAMMATIC FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System
Land Mobile Radio Project

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide Federal financial assistance for the installation of emergency communications facilities in the Los Angeles region at sites primarily in the County of Los Angeles and in adjacent portions of Orange and San Bernardino counties in southern California (Proposed Action). The Proposed Action is referred to as the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project. Funding assistance would be provided by FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate Homeland Security Grant Program Urban Area Security Initiative sub-program, through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), to the Los Angeles-Long Beach Urban Area Partner Jurisdiction, with the City of Los Angeles serving as the local fiscal agent. Funding assistance would also be provided by FEMA's State Homeland Security Grant Program sub-program, through Cal OES, to Los Angeles County. The Proposed Action would be completed by the LA-RICS Joint Powers Authority.

The Proposed Action would consolidate existing LMR systems with proposed new LMR sites to enable public safety agencies in the Los Angeles region to operate under one shared interoperable LMR system. The Proposed Action would establish a shared communications system for emergency responders that would allow for an efficient and coordinated response to emergencies in the Los Angeles region. The Proposed Action would include up to 90 sites and would involve the placement of public safety communication facilities, including the placement of lattice towers, monopoles, antennas, emergency generators, and other equipment on sites throughout the Los Angeles region.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, (42 United States Code §§ 4321-5327), and FEMA's implementing regulations (44 Code of Federal Regulations Pt. 10), FEMA has prepared a *Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)* to evaluate the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human environment. The Final PEA was prepared after a Draft PEA was submitted for public review and comment. FEMA received 5 comment letters on the Draft PEA. The comments and responses to them have been incorporated into the Final PEA. The Federal Communications Commission is the Federal agency charged with regulating and licensing the construction and operation of the LMR facilities and is a cooperating agency under NEPA.

The Final PEA is available in FEMA's Resource and Document Library: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/114997> and on the LA-RICS Joint Powers Authority website at www.LA-RICS.org. Copies of the Final PEA are also available for review during normal business hours at LA-RICS Joint Powers Authority, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 100, Monterey Park, California 91754.

Based upon the information contained in the Final PEA, with the requirement that the LA-RICS Joint Powers Authority complies with all conditions described in the Final PEA, and in accordance FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This Finding of No Significant Impact serves as the Initial Public Notice for compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and 44 CFR § 9.8 in the event that activities at an LMR site may affect or be affected by the floodplain or a wetland. For more information, contact Jill Dale at (510) 627-7728.


Alessandro Amaglio
Region IX Environmental Officer

04/21/16
Date