

Notice of Exemption (NOE)

Document Filed With: County Clerk County of Los Angeles, 12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650			
From (Public Agency):		Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Authority	
Project Title:		LA-RICS Long Term Evolution (LTE) System – Site PRG2	
Project Applicant:		LA-RICS Authority, 2525 Corporate Place, #200, Monterey Park, CA 91754	
Facility Name:		Portal Ridge-2 (PRG2)	Facility Type: Public
Project Description: (Technical Specifications)		Development of this site would include the collocation of up to 12 LTE panels comprising four panels installed on each face of the existing 3-legged tower. Up to eight equipment cabinets would be installed at the site, each up to 28 inches wide by 28 inches deep by 72 inches high, mounted together on a new concrete pad. The equipment cabinets would be used to store electronics and batteries for the site. The site would be equipped with an up to 35kW diesel generator with an up to 300-gallon fuel tank, also mounted on a concrete pad. Other project features could include new block walls or fence up to 12 feet tall surrounding the equipment cabinets, generator, and fuel tank. Trenching for power and fiber (typically up to two feet wide and up to four feet deep) and installation of lighting, signage, and other ancillary features would also be required. Total ground disturbance for all activity at the site would not exceed 3,600 square feet, of which up to 800 square feet would be new impervious surfaces created to support the concrete pad(s) that would support the equipment cabinets, generator, and fuel tank. After development of the site, activities associated with operating, maintaining, and repairing the LTE2 equipment would be conducted. The LTE2 infrastructure and equipment may also be upgraded and supplemented within the boundary of the site to utilize state-of-the-art technology and/or equipment not exceeding the footprint of the concrete pad for the equipment cabinets, the footprint and height of the existing 3-legged tower, or the vertical and horizontal dimensions occupied by the installed infrastructure and/or equipment. All activities will be in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.	
Jurisdiction Location:		Angeles National Forest	County Location: Los Angeles
Site Address:		Angeles National Forest - Ash Tree Dr., Lake Hughes (Unincorporated), CA 93536	
Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:		The LA-RICS LTE system is a modern, wireless voice and data communications system designed and built to serve law enforcement, fire service, health service, and public works professionals throughout Los Angeles County. The LTE system would provide day-to-day communications within and among agencies and allow seamless interagency communications when responding to routine, emergency, and catastrophic events. It would emergency responders high-speed access to life-saving multimedia information and would support the National Broadband Initiative. It would support more than 80 public safety agencies represented by approximately 34,000 first responders and 17,000 secondary responders serving more than 10 million residents, tourists, and commuters in the region.	
Name of Public Agency Approving Project:		LA-RICS Authority	
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:		LA-RICS Authority	
Exempt Status: Categorical Exemptions. CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15303, 15304			Exempt
Reasons Why the Project Is Exempt:		Categorical Exemption Findings: The project qualifies under Section 15301 because this site includes an existing antenna support structure that would be used to support proposed antennas. The project would not result in any expansion of use of the site because no staff would be required at the site to operate the LTE equipment and operational activities at the site would be limited to routine inspections, maintenance and repairs. The project qualifies under Section 15303 because it consists of construction of a limited number of new, small facilities. Only equipment cabinets, a generator with fuel tank, fencing / walls, and minor appurtenances would be constructed. No new occupied structures would be constructed. The project qualifies under Section 15304 because the project would result in no more than 3,600 square feet of temporary ground disturbance, no native vegetation would be altered, and no waters would be affected. In addition, no healthy mature scenic trees would be removed. Additionally, any work required to operate, maintain, upgrade, supplement, construct, install, and repair the LTE2 equipment after initial development of the site also qualifies under Sections 15301, 15303, and 15304.	

	These activities would not expand or change use of nor the size or footprint of the completed site, would require only like-for-like replacement of equipment, and would require minimal to no additional ground disturbance.		
Lead Agency Contact Person:	Susy Orellana-Curtiss	Contact Telephone No.	(323) 881-8292
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Signature:	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i> Susy ORELLANA-CURTISS	Date:	07/09/2020
		Title:	Administrative Chief