

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**

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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

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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.

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  
Chairperson