



FEMA

August 13, 2015

**Re: Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project
HSGP 2010-SS-T0-0085 (17651)
Subrecipient: City of Los Angeles**

Dear Interested Party,

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to fund the installation of emergency communications facilities in Southern California, at sites located primarily in the County of Los Angeles, California (Proposed Action). Funding assistance will be provided by U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Urban Area Security Initiative (USAI) grant award, through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to the Los Angeles-Long Beach Urban Area Partner Jurisdiction (LA/LB UA) (recipient), of which the City of Los Angeles serves as the administrative and fiscal agent. The Proposed Action is referred to as the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project (or simply the LMR project), and will be completed by the LA-RICS Joint Powers Authority (Authority). The Homeland Security Act of 2002 authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to provide funding to states, territories, urban areas, and other local and tribal governments to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from potential terrorist attacks and other hazards.

The proposed project is being funded through the additional HSGP grants and are indicated by the corresponding years:

- EMW-2011-SS-00077
- EMW-2012-SS-00123
- EMW-2013-SS-00110
- EMW-2014-SS-00093
- EMW-2015-SS-APP-00078

LA RICS is intending to fund additional sites under FY 2015 and FY 2016 HSGP.

There are currently LMR systems within Los Angeles County; however, they are not interoperable with one another. The proposed project would consolidate the existing LMR system with the proposed LMR sites to address public safety agencies under one shared interoperable system. The proposed LMR project involves the placement of public safety communication facilities, including lattice towers, monopoles, antennas, emergency generators, and other equipment on sites throughout

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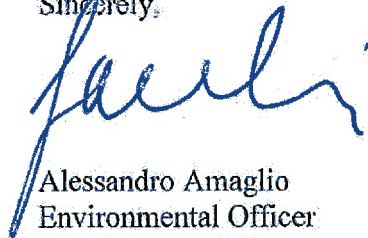
the Los Angeles County region. The new LMR project would establish a communications system for emergency responders, currently not available, that would allow for an efficient and coordinated response to emergencies in the Los Angeles County.

The LMR project would comprise up to 90 sites that would be selected from a total of approximately 116 potential sites.¹

FEMA, as lead federal agency, will be preparing a Programmatic Environmental Assessment on the LMR project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is the federal agency charged with regulating and licensing the construction and operation of the LMR facilities and will be a cooperating agency for under NEPA. In compliance with NEPA, FEMA is soliciting your input on the proposed Federal action.

Your input is a critical component of the NEPA compliance process. Please forward any comments on the Proposed Action in writing to Ms. Jill S. Dale, Grants Program Sr. Environmental Specialist, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200; Oakland, California 94607. To ensure that your comments are considered, please respond by September 15, 2015.

Sincerely,



Alessandro Amaglio
Environmental Officer
FEMA Region IX

Attachments

cc: Ursula Harelson, Cal OES
Alisa Finsten, City of Los Angeles
Pat Mallon, LA-RICS Authority

¹ More than the necessary number of sites are being considered to account for the fact that potential sites may be found infeasible for technical, engineering, permitting, or lease-related reasons.