



Via Email and U.S. Mail

September 14, 2015

Nancy Yang
Project Engineer
2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200
Monterey Park CA 91754

Agenda Item 9(a) SMMC 11/2/15

RE: Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Project; HSGP 2010-SS-T0-0085(17651); Sub-recipient – City of Los Angeles

Dear Ms. Yang:

I am the First Vice President of Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association (Brentwood Hills), and am writing on behalf of Brentwood Hills in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) dated August 19, 2015 from Patrick Mallon of LA-RICS. That NOP requests comments regarding the anticipated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and requests comments be submitted by September 19, 2015.

Brentwood Hills represents over 450 homes in the Santa Monica Mountains above Mandeville Canyon Road north of Sunset Blvd in the Brentwood region of Los Angeles. Brentwood Hills has been instrumental in protecting open space, public access and parklands in the Santa Monica Mountains, including the Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park. Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park is part of the Santa Monica National Recreation Area, and includes Westridge Fire Road and the adjacent trails leading to San Vicente Mountain Park, which is a designated location for one of the 180-foot LMR towers proposed by LA-RICS.

The proposed San Vicente Peak LMR tower is not only within—and surrounded by—San Vicente Mountain Park and Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park, but it is also immediately adjacent to Topanga State Park. The Proposed LMR tower is also located within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan.

This proposed 180-foot LMR microwave tower is located in beautiful open space parkland that is heavily used by thousands of hikers, picnickers and mountain bikers each year. The huge tower would be an obvious eyesore for miles throughout not only the adjacent protected parklands, but also throughout West Los Angeles and the west San Fernando Valley. In addition, the tower—with its high-wattage blinking light, many microwave dishes and associated microwave radiation—would have significant environmental impacts not only on the view-sheds and surrounding scenic

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parklands, but also on wildlife, birds and the thousands of visitors that visit the park and the viewing platform that is immediately adjacent to the proposed LMR tower.

San Vicente Mountain Park is an historical interpretive site that was a NIKE Missile radar site during the Cold War. There are interpretive signs explaining the history of the Nike Missile system, the radar site and the Cold War, and the park includes picnic areas, hiking trails and a viewing platform immediately adjacent to the proposed 180-foot LMR tower. This viewing platform is heavily used by the public, with unparalleled 360-degree views stretching from Long Beach to the Pacific Ocean, the Santa Susanna and San Gabriel Mountains, Downtown LA and beyond.

In case you are unfamiliar with the location for the proposed San Vicente Peak LMR tower, here are some photographs of this beautiful site. The new 180-foot tall tower would be located next to the existing, much smaller tower next to the viewing platform you can see in these photographs:



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For comparison, here is a representation of the 180-foot LMR tower proposed for San Vicente Peak, which is located right next to the viewing platform used by thousands of people each year who visit this park:



Brentwood Hills and many other community organizations feel strongly that San Vicente Peak is an inappropriate location for the huge LMR tower that is proposed for this site. In addition, letters of concern regarding the San Vicente Peak LA-RICS tower have been written by the National Park Service and the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy. Moreover, the Los Angeles City Council recently expressed concern over the San Vicente Peak LMR tower, and asked that an alternative location be explored by LA-RICS. I am attaching some of those letters of concern for your information.

Brentwood Hills urges that the San Vicente Peak location for the LA-RICS LMR tower be removed from further consideration, as the environmental impacts associated with an LMR tower at this site would be significant, unavoidable, permanent and could not be mitigated. Simply put, this park is an inappropriate location for this type of huge microwave tower.

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If the San Vicente Peak location is not immediately dropped from further consideration, Brentwood Hills strongly believes this particular location should be the subject of a separate and robust environmental analysis under both NEPA and CEQA. Given its unique location in the middle of protected state and federal parkland and within the Mulholland scenic corridor, it would be inappropriate for the proposed San Vicente Peak LMR tower to be lumped in with all of the other urban LA-RICS facilities in a single Program EIR.

If the San Vicente Peak LMR tower is not removed from consideration at this time—which Brentwood Hills believes would be the appropriate course of action—Brentwood Hills demands that all alternatives to the proposed San Vicente Peak LMR tower be subject to a meaningful environmental analysis, including the “no tower” alternative, alternative locations outside of protected parklands and sensitive habitat, and much smaller tower configurations.

Brentwood Hills requests that it be placed on the notice list for all public meetings, notices, letters and draft and final environmental reports.

We look forward to your thoughtful consideration of the community’s substantial concerns regarding this tower.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL R. LESLIE,
First Vice President, Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association

Attachments

Cc: Councilman Mike Bonin, City of Los Angeles
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, County of Los Angeles
State Senator Fran Pavley
State Assemblyman Richard Bloom
State Assemblyman Matt Dababneh
State Senator Ben Allen
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
National Park Service
Hillside Federation
Interested community groups and homeowners associations
FEMA