



FEMA

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER
CITY OF PASADENA, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM
PROJECT # 2009-SS-T9-0064 (9909)**

BACKGROUND

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Subpart B, Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). This EA informed FEMA's decision on whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The proposed project is to construct a 200-foot telecommunications tower with associated equipment at the City of Pasadena Police Department. The proposed tower is to be located at 1201 Davis Street, Pasadena, Harris County, Texas (Latitude: 29.692554, Longitude: -95.194715). The proposed tower would provide radio coverage in the area for various federal, state, and local disaster and emergency personnel as part of the state-wide interoperability communications project under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)-Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Homeland Security Grant Program. The Texas Department of Public Safety submitted the project under application number 2009-SS-T9-0064 (9909) of the Homeland Security Grant Program. FEMA provides funds under this program for activities that build capabilities at the state and local levels and to implement the goals and objectives included in state homeland security strategies and initiatives in the State Preparedness Report

Two project alternatives were considered in this EA: 1) No Action; and 2) Construction of a 200-foot telecommunications tower (Proposed Action). Under the No Action alternative, the tower would not be constructed. Under this alternative, Harris County would continue to rely on existing communication infrastructure which does not meet the FCC mandate for narrow banding; does not provide sufficient coverage throughout the area; and does not support interoperability for talk groups. The No Action Alternative would not address the needs for Andrews County and surrounding areas.

The Proposed Action Alternative will involve the construction of a 200-foot telecommunications tower with associated equipment. This tower shall be engineered to specifically meet and adequately handle the equipment to be installed. All materials and services will be installed at the Pasadena Police Department facility. The site will house Motorola Simulcast equipment to provide connectivity to the City of Houston.

The specific equipment included with this proposal is identified below.

- One 200-foot Self Supporting Tower. Structure Class III, Exposure Category C and Topographic Category I
- One 12x38-foot concrete equipment shelter with an integrated generator room
- Indoor rated 100kW NG/LP Generator
- One 500 gallon LP fuel tank
- Motorola provided infrastructure equipment

Pasadena PD Antenna Networks

- Motorola provided Sinclair SC412-HF2LDF antenna at 200 feet and 1-1/4-inch LDF transmission line
- Motorola provided Sinclair SC412-HF2LDF antennas at 180 feet
- Motorola provided Tower Top Amplifier and 2 runs of 7/8-inch transmission lines and 2 runs of half-inch transmission line

VHF and UHF Antenna Networks

- Sinclair SC229 at 170 feet; 1 run of 7/8-inch transmission line
- DB410 or equivalent at 120 feet; 1 run of 7/8-inch transmission line

A public notice was posted in the Houston Chronicle on January 20, 2012, and the draft EA was made available for comment at the Pasadena Public Library, located at 1201 Jeff Ginn Memorial Drive Pasadena, TX 77506, and on the FEMA website for a 15-day public comment period. No comments were received from the public during the 15-day comment period.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Action as described in the EA will not adversely impact geology, soil, seismicity, water resources, wetlands, floodplains, coastal resources, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species, historic properties, American Indian or religious sites, air quality, noise, infrastructure, utilities, transportation, or waste management, or socioeconomic resources. Positive long-term impacts to socioeconomic and environmental justice are anticipated since the project will provide better emergency support to the community. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, air quality, water quality, waste management, noise, traffic, and health and safety are anticipated. All populations, including minority and low-income populations, will benefit from the Proposed Action. All adverse impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. This review does not address all federal, state and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure

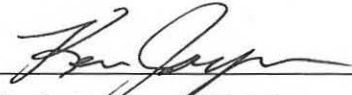
to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.

2. Best available techniques to control erosion and sedimentation must be used. Best Management Practices (BMPs). These BMPs can include spraying water to minimize dust, limiting the area of uncovered soil to the minimum needed for each activity, and the siting of staging areas to minimize fugitive dust.
3. Excavated soil and waste materials must be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal regulations. If contaminated materials are discovered during the construction activities, the work will cease until the appropriate procedures can be implemented and permits obtained. Any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction will be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal regulations.
4. Construction will take place during daytime hours and equipment will meet all local, State, and Federal noise regulations.
5. During construction-related activities, precautions will be taken to avoid damage to existing utility lines. All potential modifications to utility services will be evaluated. Coordination with potentially affected local and regional utility service providers will occur to avoid unnecessary damage or interruption of service.
6. Construction contractors will be required to comply with the Federal and state health and safety regulations. All activities will be conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with standards specified in OSHA regulations.
7. In the event that archeological deposits, including any Native American pottery, stone tools, bones, or human remains, are uncovered, the project shall be halted and the applicant shall stop all work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archeological findings will be secured and access to the sensitive area restricted. The applicant will inform FEMA immediately and FEMA will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and Tribes and work in sensitive areas cannot resume until consultation is completed and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
8. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.

CONCLUSIONS

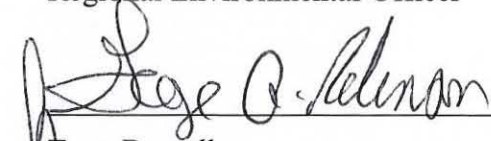
Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.9) and the proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVAL



Kevin Jaynes, CHMM
Regional Environmental Officer

Date 2/6/12



Tony Russell
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 6

Date 2/6/12