



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Sheriff-Coroner
Department No.: 032
For Agenda Of: August 27, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Sheriff's Office Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner, 805-681-4290 *bb*
Contact Info: Lieutenant Jeff Greene, 805-686-5029
SUBJECT: License Agreement with Cox Communications California, LLC to Maintain Search & Rescue Equipment at La Cumbre Peak

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the License Agreement with Cox Communications California, LLC to allow necessary Santa Barbara County Search & Rescue communication equipment to remain at Cox's La Cumbre Peak location;
- B) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the RF Radiation and Safety Agreement; and
- C) Determine that the recommended action is not a "Project" within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(4), since the recommended action is a government fiscal activity which does not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to approve the License Agreement with Cox Communications California, LLC ("Cox") (Attachment A) to allow for necessary Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue Team ("SAR") radio/communication equipment to remain at the La Cumbre Peak location owned by Cox. The RF Radiation and Safety Agreement (Exhibit C to the License Agreement) is required by Cox and requires licensees to shut down certain equipment upon notice. SAR has had functioning equipment at the site since 2000, and Cox now desires the arrangement to be formally documented.

La Cumbre Peak is an essential location for the equipment as it provides the best location for the Search and Rescue repeater, due to its location and elevation. This location provides signal coverage not only to the front mountainside looking into the canyons of Santa Barbara and Montecito, but also in the wilderness area north of the coastal mountains. If approved, this will ensure continued radio communication for the SAR Team and its various missions that serve the community.

Background:

Since the early 1960s, SAR has provided search and rescue services to the citizens and visitors of Santa Barbara County. As a volunteer, non-profit, public charity these services have been provided free of charge to those in need. There are numerous callouts each year requiring SAR members to traverse the vast trails, back country, and wilderness areas of our county. Due to the nature of the terrain, members would face tremendous challenges in maintaining communication between field teams and the base of operations (Command Post) without the repeater at La Cumbre Peak.

Since 2000, SAR has stored radio equipment and a repeater at the La Cumbre Peak Cox property, which has provided communication on countless missions for the team. Originally there was an umbrella agreement with the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club, which later transitioned into a “no cost” lease agreement between Cox and SAR for its Hamtronics REO-200 Type Accepted repeater and associated support equipment. As times and administrations change, Cox is now asking for the attached agreement between the County of Santa Barbara, due to SAR being an auxiliary unit of the Sheriff’s Office, and requiring insurance coverage for mishaps caused to SAR equipment or any other equipment damage due to a SAR member or SAR equipment located at the site. However, Cox is still agreeing to allow the use of its property at no additional cost to SAR or the County.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: There is no fiscal impact on the General Fund. Insurance coverage is already procured by the County, and no new coverage is required for this agreement.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board: Please forward a certified, stamped Minute Order approving the recommendations, and a signed copy of the executed MOU between Cox Communications California, LLC and the County of Santa Barbara, to:

Jeff Greene, Lieutenant – Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office
4434 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Attachments:

Attachment A: Cox Communications California, LLC (La Cumbre Peak) License Agreement, including RF Radiation and Safety Agreement Exhibit C

Authored by:

Lieutenant Jeff Greene, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office