



REDWOOD EMPIRE DISPATCH COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of the State of California, Department of General Services (DGS), granting the County of Sonoma a reduction in fair market value cost for the rental of communications sites throughout Sonoma County, based on "broad public benefit."

REDCOM is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) providing emergency call-taking and emergency dispatch for 31 Fire Departments/Districts and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies in Sonoma County. REDCOM processes over 60,000 emergency 911 calls annually and dispatches over 90,000 emergency vehicles annually. Providing this safety net to the public in Sonoma County, REDCOM relies on the network of communications towers dotted throughout the county to operate our primary dispatch and our tactical and control radio channels used while responding to life threatening emergencies. This network of towers includes sites such as: Oak Ridge, Seaview, Pine Mtn., Geyser Peak, Mt. Jackson, Mt. Barham, Sonoma Mtn., and Sleepy.

These towers are also sites that support the physical location and data backhaul of the *Alert Wildfire*, fire cameras used in the real-time monitoring of the Sonoma Watershed and high fire danger regions in the county. These cameras have been implemented through a collaborative effort by Sonoma County, CALFIRE, Sonoma Water, and PG&E, as an after-action initiative to better protect the citizens of Sonoma County after the devastating wildfires in 2017 that destroyed over 5,000 homes in our county. REDCOM has used these cameras in conjunction with CALFIRE for the past two wildfire seasons to more accurately locate reported fires and improve responses to wildfire.

I urge you to consider these communication sites as being used for the broad public benefit, as they are an integral part of our emergency response system in Sonoma County.

Sincerely,

Aaron Abbott, REDCOM Executive Director