




## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** AUGUST 24, 2016

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER 

**BY:** LOUIS CELAYA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER   
DOUG HOOPER, PLANNING DIRECTOR 

**SUBJECT:** LA-RICS – PROPOSED FACILITY INSTALLATION (KIMBERLY PEAK)

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The City has been advised that Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) plans to proceed with its proposed installation of communication equipment associated with its Land Mobile Radio (LMR) element of the system. As the City Council recalls, the proposed LA-RICS will vastly improve radio and broadband communication for police, firefighters, paramedics and other emergency responders in Los Angeles County. The LMR system looks to replace the current patchwork of aging frequencies, creating a seamless web of communication. Within this system is a network of communication equipment that is needed for the LA-RICS to be fully operational, according to staff at LA-RICS.

The City was initially part of the LA-RICS Joint Power Authority membership in 2009 during its initial phases, but withdrew in participation in November 2015, as certain policy determinations and certainties regarding cost for contract cities had failed to materialize.

During its initial establishment, LA-RICS identified several sites across the County of Los Angeles for infrastructure equipment installations (i.e., towers, etc). The Kimberly Peak location was identified as an alternate site, and was originally not considered as a primary site as other public sites were being utilized. Recently, the team from LA-RICS has advised City staff that it intends to proceed with installation of a tower at Kimberly Peak. The location is private property, owned by the Morrison Ranch Estates Homeowner's Association (HOA) and is zoned Open Space, and currently provides accommodations for communication equipment for the City, Las Virgenes Unified School District, and Charter Communications.

Staff from LA-RICS has met with the City's Land Use-Economic Development Subcommittee and City staff to discuss the proposed actions at this location. During this meeting, City staff was advised by LA-RICS that it was finalizing a facility use agreement with the property owner, and would return to the City to discuss possible process and permit requirements. The sub-committee also expressed some concerns with the proposed project from LA-RICS to their staff, particularly with respect to

notification of residents in the HOA about this pending project. Subsequent research by City staff has discovered that while the current site is located in with the City's Open Space-Deed Restricted (OS-DR) zone, LA-RICS will be not subject to the City's zoning and land use regulations, as they are afforded Intergovernmental Immunity by the Government Code for furthering the agency's valid governmental purpose or function (i.e., provision of emergency communications, etc).

Staff from LA-RICS will be making a presentation to the City Council on the overall purpose of LA-RICS and the proposed work identified for Kimberly Peak. While the City Council will not be able to take specific action on the proposed project, it can utilize the time to ask questions, provide comments and suggestions to LA-RICS staff.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the City Council receive and file this report

Attachment: Aerial Map – Kimberly Peak



Kimberly Peak

Google earth