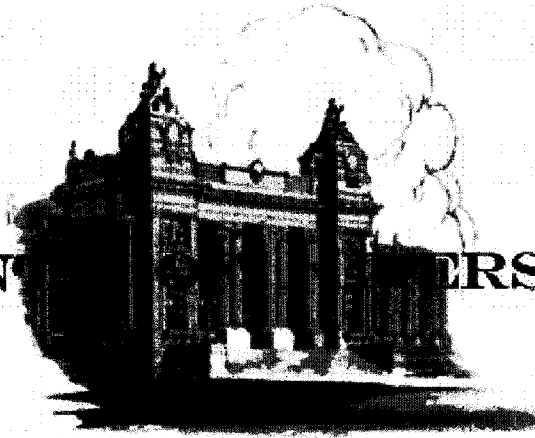


COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



**Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) Project
Program Environmental Impact Report
Addendum No. 8
Indio Prime Communication Site Relocation**

Prepared for
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List of Acronyms

APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
CAC	County Administration Center
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
PEIR	Program Environmental Impact Report
PSEC	Public Safety Enterprise Communication
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

Section 1 – Background

On September 2, 2008, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors adopted the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) project. The PEIR assessed the environmental impacts likely to result from the construction and operation of up to 65 communication sites throughout Riverside County and adjoining areas of San Bernardino, San Diego, and Orange Counties.

The findings of the PEIR are hereby incorporated by reference into this addendum. The PEIR determined that the environmental impacts associated with the project would be less than significant for the majority of the environmental issues that were analyzed. This finding was based on the fact that all of the PSEC sites are virtually identical and would have the same types of impacts regardless of where they were located. Issues found to result in either No Impact or a Less Than Significant Impact with No Mitigation Required were as follows:

- Agricultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Climate Change

For several issue areas, the PEIR determined that potential impacts warranted the prescription of a number of standard mitigation measures. These mitigation measures were applicable to all of the sites, regardless of location. Issues found to result in a finding of Less Than Significant With Mitigation Required were as follows:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hydrology and Water Quality

The mitigation measures for biological and cultural resources included requirements for actions to be taken if a site were to change location or if additional sites not previously identified in the PEIR were proposed to be included as part of the overall PSEC project.

For one issue area, aesthetics, the PEIR determined that feasible mitigation to lessen the project's impacts in this regard was not available, and that the project's impact for this issue would be unavoidable and adverse.

Despite the project's potential unavoidable and adverse impact to aesthetic resources, the County determined that the project would provide specific safety benefits, increased communication, and other advantages that outweighed the unavoidable adverse environmental impacts of the project, such that those impacts were considered acceptable. The benefits were defined as follows:

- 1) Completion of the project will increase emergency communication coverage in the County from 60 percent to 95 percent of the County's land area for emergency service personnel and their cooperators;
- 2) The increased communication coverage will provide immeasurable benefits for all residents within the County. With better coverage, there will be adequate

communication capability during emergency incidents (including wildfires, earthquakes, large-scale releases of hazardous substances, and other natural or man-made disasters) that cross jurisdictional boundaries or require multiple-agency cooperation;

- 3) The project will provide a secure voice and data communication network that is not dependent upon commercial facilities for its operation;
- 4) The collocation of PSEC sites will reduce the number of individual communication sites that would otherwise be required if each agency were to construct their own separate facilities; and
- 5) When weighed against the potential for significant loss of life and property resulting from deficiencies in current communication coverage, the resulting impacts from the proposed project are quite minimal.

Based on the identified benefits of the proposed project, and pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15093, the County adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for the project's potential unavoidable adverse impacts to aesthetics.

Section 2 – Allowance for Modification and Expansion

The PEIR imposed a number of standard mitigation measures that were applicable to all PSEC sites. As noted previously, mitigation measures related to air quality, hydrology and water quality were intended to apply to all sites, regardless of location. Mitigation measures related to biological and cultural resources were intended to be more site and area specific, and included requirements for actions to be taken if a site were to change location or if additional sites not previously identified in the PEIR were proposed to be included as part of the overall PSEC project.

At the time of the PEIR's adoption, certain design details and a final location for a number of the sites had not been finalized. To provide for such a contingency, the PEIR prescribed mitigation measures to be implemented if a site or its supporting components (access roads, power alignments, etc.) were to be relocated to an area that had not been assessed and/or surveyed as part of the PEIR. This programmatic approach was adopted to allow modifications to project design without the need for recirculation of the PEIR. Specific measures prescribed in the PEIR required the County to determine that the impacts associated with the proposed modification/addition were consistent with the analysis and findings of the PEIR. Specific performance measures were adopted to identify the analysis necessary to make this determination. Those measures were contained in a number of mitigation measures applicable to the site assessed in this addendum, as follows:

Biological Resources

MM BR-1c If any construction related to the proposed project, such as access roads, is anticipated to occur outside of the area surveyed for the June 3, 2008 Habitat Assessment Report, then additional habitat assessments shall be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to development to evaluate potential impacts. If these expanded surveys find that sensitive biological resources are present in the area to be impacted, then appropriate measures consistent with applicable laws and policies in effect at the time of the survey shall be undertaken to avoid or mitigate identified impacts. If the expanded surveys do not find sensitive biological resources in the area to be impacted, then development may then commence unimpeded within the parameters of applicable laws and policies governing such development.

Cultural Resources

MM CR-1a In the event that ground-disturbing activities extend beyond the limits of a 300-foot buffer from the surveyed site, then additional archaeological studies must be completed to determine whether historical properties or significant archaeological resources will be affected by the proposed construction plans. Ground disturbing activities may consist of, but are not limited to trenching for electrical power, creation of access roads, or access road improvements. The extent of these additional archaeological studies would be determined based upon the nature of the proposed construction plans beyond a 300-foot radius of the surveyed location. If these expanded surveys find that sensitive properties or resources are present in the area to be impacted, then appropriate measures consistent with applicable laws and policies in effect at the time of the survey shall be undertaken to avoid or mitigate identified impacts. If the expanded surveys do not find sensitive properties or resources in the area to be impacted, then development may then commence unimpeded within the parameters of applicable laws and policies governing such development.

Since adoption of the PEIR in September 2008, it has been determined that the previously-approved Indio Prime Communication Site will need to be relocated due to planned construction activities at the existing County Administration Center (CAC) at the intersection of Highway 111 and Oasis Street. A new location has been identified nearby that will adequately provide required emergency services communication coverage in the area. As such, the County undertook to implement the mitigation prescribed in the PEIR that was required in the event of site relocation or network expansion.

This addendum evaluates one relocated site that was not specifically evaluated in the PEIR. For biological and cultural resources, the analysis for each site is presented individually below, and incorporates the findings from the biological and cultural resources studies as required by the PEIR mitigation measures outlined above.

Section 3 – Site Evaluation and Consistency with the PEIR

3.1 – Indio Prime Communication Site Relocation

The original Indio Prime Communication Site consisted of upgrades to an existing communication facility located at the Indio CAC at the intersection of Highway 111 and Oasis Street in the City of Indio (APN 614-040-005). Since the upgrade consisted only of internal modifications within the existing telecommunications shelter at the site and minor alterations to equipment on the existing communications tower, the County determined that the upgrade did not involve any changes to land use or the physical environment and was thus exempt from further CEQA evaluation. This finding was based upon CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Existing Facilities, Class 1 and General Rule Exemption Section 15061, which provide for exemptions when:

- Section 15301, Class 1; the proposed project does not include modifications to the existing environment and does not involve a change in the existing use or expansion to the existing footprint; and
- Section 15061; with certainty, there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment.

The County filed a Notice of Exemption (Project No. PSEC-421080004) with the County Clerk on January 16, 2008 and posted the notice for 30 days. No public comments were submitted during the noticing period.

Since adoption of the exemption, a number of siting conflicts have arisen at the original Indio Prime location based upon the County's desire to expand detention space at the jail facility located there. The expansion will require removal of the existing communication site, and an alternative site location at the CAC is not available. As such, the County has determined that the Indio Prime Communication Site will be relocated to the Alternate Emergency Operations Center (AEOC) located at 82695 Doctor Carreon Boulevard, approximately one-half mile to the south of the existing site (APN 614-150-034).

This new site location will meet required communication coverage objectives to immediate areas in and around the City of Indio, and will also provide required network linkages to other sites within the PSEC system.

The alternative communication site will be constructed immediately south of the former Sheriff's Station in a landscaped area adjacent to a controlled-access parking lot. All internal communication equipment will be housed inside the former Sheriff's Station. As such, the new communication facility will not require an external equipment shelter, and the site's footprint will consist of the communication tower only. The tower will measure 180 feet in height, and will be of a standard, self-supporting design that will be similar in appearance to the existing Indio Prime Communication Site. Exhibits are included within Appendix A of this addendum that show the site's location and photographs of the site and surrounding area.

The relocated communication site is located in the City of Indio near the intersection of Doctor Carreon Boulevard and Oasis Street. It is situated approximately one block south of the original Indio Prime Communication Site. It shares similar characteristics to the original location in that it is located adjacent to a County facility and adjacent to a parking lot. The area

is surrounded by urban development and possesses the same ornamental landscaped vegetation and habitat characteristics and contains similar visual features. The project site is located in Section 26 of Township 5 South, Range 7 East, as found on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Indio, California, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. The site is located on a County-owned parcel in a flat, highly-disturbed urban area. The surrounding area is urban in nature, with large parking lots associated with Riverside County Fairgrounds and National Date Festival facilities to the north, west, and south, and medium density, single-family residential housing to the east across Oasis Street. Commercial electric power is available at the site, and access to the new facility can be taken directly from the adjacent parking lot. No new power lines or access roads will be required for site development.

Since this proposed relocation site was not assessed in the PEIR, the County has implemented the mitigation measures that were prescribed in the PEIR for new or relocated sites. Table 1, below, summarizes the PEIR mitigation measures that are relevant to the relocated Indio Prime Communication Site. The table also provides justification as to whether or not the mitigation measures listed above in Section 2 apply to this site.

Table 1: PEIR Mitigation Applicable to the Indio Prime Communication Site Relocation

Mitigation Measure	Applicable to Indio Prime Communication Site?
Biological Resources	
BR-1c: Requirement for additional biological resources surveys if new sites are proposed or if a site changes location.	Yes. The Indio Prime site is an all-new relocated site that was not previously assessed for biological resources in the PEIR. A biological resources survey was completed and the findings are summarized below in Section 3.1.1.
Cultural Resources	
CR-1a: Requirement for additional cultural resources surveys if new sites are proposed or if a site changes location.	Yes. The Indio Prime site is an all-new relocated site that was not previously assessed for cultural resources in the PEIR. A cultural resources survey was completed and the findings are summarized below in Section 3.1.2.

3.1.1 – Biological Resources (Indio Prime Communication Site Relocation)

As per the relevant mitigation measure related to biological resources for this site, and noted above (MM BR-1c), the site was surveyed for sensitive biological resources. The site is located in a narrow, grass-covered landscaped area between the former Sheriff's Station and a parking lot. All associated vegetation is non-native and ornamental in nature. No habitat for sensitive plant or animal species is present at the site. No adverse environmental effects from project implementation were identified. Based on these findings, it can be determined that the proposed relocated Indio Prime Communication Site is consistent with the findings contained in the PEIR, which determined that the project would not have a significant impact in regards to biological resources. As such, no further action related to biological resources is required.

3.1.2 – Cultural Resources (Indio Prime Communication Site Relocation)

As per the mitigation measure (MM CR-1a), a records search and a pedestrian cultural resources survey was conducted for the proposed site. A report that outlines the results of

these efforts is included within Appendix B of this addendum. The results of the records search indicated that no previously recorded cultural resources are located within the project area, and 12 resources are known within one mile. All of these known and previously recorded resources are located more than 0.25 miles from the project area boundaries and would not be affected by construction. During the pedestrian survey, no prehistoric archaeological resources were observed, and no historic-age sites or buildings were detected.

The results of the records search, the negative results for significant cultural resources during the pedestrian survey, and the disturbed nature of the soils within the project area render it unlikely that significant and intact subsurface resources would be encountered during project implementation. Therefore, the project area appears to exhibit low sensitivity for significant cultural resources. As such, no further action related to cultural resources is required.

3.1.3 – Determination of Findings (Indio Prime Communication Site Relocation)

Based on the analysis contained in the above assessment, the County finds that the impacts of the proposed relocated Indio Prime Communication Site are consistent with the analysis and findings contained in the PEIR. The proposed project meets the criteria established in Public Resources Code Sections 15162 and 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines for an addendum to an EIR. Based on substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, it is determined that:

- 1) No substantial changes are proposed which will require major revisions of the PEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.
- 2) No substantial changes occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the PEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.
- 3) There is no new information of substantial importance, which was not shown or could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the PEIR was certified as complete that shows that:
 - a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the PEIR.
 - b. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible in the PEIR would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project; and
 - c. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the PEIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment.

Based on the discussion provided above, no subsequent changes are proposed or would occur that necessitate the preparation of a subsequent EIR or other applicable CEQA document.

Appendix A – Communication Site Exhibits
Relocated Indio Prime Communication Site

All appendices are included on CD in the back inside cover of this addendum

Appendix B – Cultural Resources Assessment
Relocated Indio Prime Communication Site

All appendices are included on CD in the back inside cover of this addendum