



M E M O R A N D U M
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
DATE: May 12, 2026
FROM: Wayne Woo, Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal
BY: Jerry Rogers, Administrative Services Manager
SUBJECT: National Weather Service Emergency Notification Project

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive a presentation on the Placer County Sheriff's Office emergency notification project utilizing National Weather Service radio signals to transmit emergency alerts to residents living in areas with limited or unreliable cellular service within the Tahoe Basin.

BACKGROUND

The Placer County Sheriff's Office is proposing a project to improve emergency alert capabilities for residents living in areas with limited or unreliable cellular service. Currently, most emergency notifications rely on cellular networks, which can leave residents in remote or mountainous areas of Placer County without timely warnings during outages, wildfires, severe weather, or other disasters. This project would establish a reliable backup alerting method using radio-based notifications through the National Weather Service (NWS), helping ensure critical messages reach more residents when they are needed most. The system will fully integrate with Everbridge, allowing staff to activate radio alerts by selecting a single option when issuing notifications across multiple communication platforms.

The proposed system uses NWS radio signals rather than cellular networks to transmit emergency alerts. After evaluating potential locations, the Sheriff's Office and the Placer County Radio Services Group identified Ward Peak as the preferred initial site because it provides the greatest coverage area and is already County-owned. Martis Peak may be considered as a future expansion site if the initial deployment proves successful. Implementation of this project will require installation of radio equipment, including a primary unit, backup unit, antenna system, and battery backup power to ensure continued operations during power outages.

To implement the project, the next steps include the Placer County Radio Services Group finalizing equipment selection from a reputable vendor. Once selection is complete, the Sheriff's Office will return to your Board to request approval for the equipment purchase and any other required action items. Funding for the project will be provided through Tahoe Transient Occupancy Tax revenues.

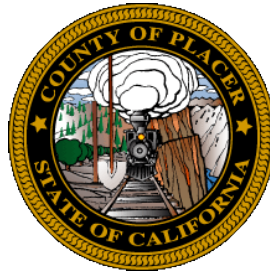
FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item at this time.

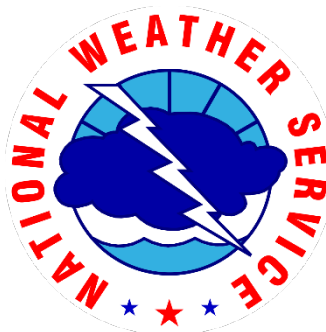
ATTACHMENT

Attachment A – National Weather Service Project Proposal

PLACER COUNTY
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
TELECOMMUNICATION DIVISION – RADIO SERVICES GROUP



Placer County Sheriff's
Office
National Weather Service Project
Proposal



December 9, 2025

Overview

The County of Placer (County) is seeking to procure a solution that is capable of providing emergency alerts to residents of the County who do reside in areas with other means of emergency communication, for example cellular service.

Over the last year the County has looked into various options and has settled on a service provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) through which the County will have access to the NWS application to send out emergency alerts. Working in conjunction with the NWS, the County evaluated various locations to determine which radio sites might be a good fit for this solution. Radio coverage maps were created, evaluating coverage areas overlaid with County population maps. These maps helped to narrow down which locations would serve the greatest number of County residents. Two locations were selected as the best fit: Ward Peak and Martis Peak. Ward Peak will cover the largest number of residents and is also owned and maintained by the County. Martis Peak covers a smaller number of residents and is not owned nor maintained by the County. For these reasons, the Ward Peak location was selected as the first option for implementation of this solution. The Martis location may be implemented at a future date if the Ward Peak implementation is successful and if lease rights for this solution are obtained for the Martis Peak location.

The NWS solution will require that the County procure adequate radio equipment with sufficient backup power that the NWS system can interface to. In addition to the procurement and implementation of the radio equipment, the Ward Peak site will require the implementation of a DC power system with backup batteries to provide power in the instances that commercial power becomes unavailable. In preparation for this project, the County has made significant improvements to the existing shelter, including implementation of new breakers and power lines to and within the site. The cost of materials and labor for these improvements to date have been absorbed by the Radio Services Group.

The County has contacted the suppliers of the radio equipment from the list provided by the NWS and it was discovered that all but one has stopped selling the required equipment. For this reason one vendor was selected. The one vendor will cease manufacture and sales of this equipment in the near future. In preparation of this the County has looked into more commercially available options that may be implemented in the future.

Training

The RSG will require training to be done to provide ongoing support for this radio system. The accepted NWS radio is not one that we have been trained on previously. Time has been put into this proposal to allow all members of the Radio Services Group to review the materials and software needed to program and troubleshoot this radio.

Procurement, Installation and Cutover

The RSG will work with PCSO in the procurement of all items proposed. This includes the following:

- Main Radio Equipment with Spare Radio
- Antenna, Feedline, Connectors and Cavity
- DC Power system with 250 AH Battery cells

The Radio Services Group will oversee the implementation of all the equipment in this proposal. The Radio Services Group will perform all installations with the exception of the antenna and feedlines, which will require an outside contractor, and the Cellular interface equipment provided by the NWS.

Once implemented, the Radio Services Group will work with PCSO and the NWS to test the solution and bring it online.

Maintenance

The Placer County Radio Services Group will provide ongoing maintenance services for this fixed radio equipment. This service will be billed at the current service rate for maintenance of fixed station equipment, \$400 monthly. Rates for this service are updated annually. This system will be added to the PCSO Fixed Station equipment table upon implementation of this system.

In order to support this system, the Radio Services Group will require training on the equipment, and purchase of the required software. The cost for this training and software is included with this proposal.

Cost Summary

Equipment	Cost
Main Radio	\$37,000
Spare Radio	\$20,000
Antenna, Feedline, Connectors, Cavity	\$3,400
DC Power system and Batteries	\$16,700

Equipment Subtotal: \$77,100

Labor	Cost
Antenna and Feedline Installation	\$7,000
Radio, Power System Installation, Configuration & Testing	\$14,000
Training and Documentation	\$2,500

Labor Subtotal: \$23,500

Grand Total: \$100,600

Ongoing Maintenance - Monthly	\$400
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