



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Sent Via Email

April 12, 2021

Lester Perpall, Court Executive Officer
Jury Commissioner
100 Thompson Way
P.O. Box 1037
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

RE: 2020-21 Grand Jury Compliance and Continuity Report

Mr. Perpall,

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is in receipt of the 2020-21 Grand Jury Compliance and Continuity Report. The Report indicates that a response provided by the Town of Mammoth to the 2020-21 Report regarding the upgrading of the Countywide radio system was not in compliance with Penal Code Section 933.05(c). The note indicates the response should include a timeline. We note that the provisions regarding a timeframe for implementation are in Section 933.05(b), rather than 933.05(c).

The Grand Jury's recommendation was that the Town continue to support Mono County's existing communications system and potential future improvements to the system. The Town's support for the existing system and future improvements is ongoing. The Town, Mono County and Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District are continuing to review options for the upgrade/improvements to the radio system. The complexity and cost of this program does not lend itself to a set timeline for completion and any system upgrade will extend over years. The agencies have reviewed a rebuild of the system with costs in excess of \$12 million over a few years. The agencies have reviewed different interim steps to improve communications with no final action due to costs and technical issues related to achieving ongoing improvements vs. having stranded investment. Agencies have met with representatives from AT&T First Net and conducted some limited tests. The cost to upgrade the system and to maintain both a cell phone-based LTE solution and Land Mobile Radio (LMR) with VHF capabilities, may be less than a full agency rebuild but was not finalized due to coverage and technology related issues. This option is not precluded when reevaluating other solutions.

The local agencies have also recently discussed with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) the potential expansion of the California Radio Interoperable System (CRIS) in Mono County with the option to serve local agency needs. This effort is currently under review with anticipated preliminary presentations to agency governing bodies in May 2021. This effort is projected to have an

infrastructure cost of a few million dollars. All systems reviewed include expensive radio replacements/upgrades and subscriber fees and will extend over multiple years for full implementation.

While a final system and program of work has not been finalized, the Town of Mammoth Lakes set aside \$500,000 for this work in FY20-21 to begin funding the Town share of the final selected program. Additional funding will be recommended in FY21-22. Until a final course of action is selected, approved by the local governing bodies and full funding allocated, this project will continue to move forward through coordinated discussions and review of solutions that meet all of user group needs. Minor improvements in the current system are ongoing.

Due to the types of communication needs of all user groups, reviews of alternative solutions, types of buildout scenarios, operating system costs (radio upgrades, fees, and tower improvements) a definitive realistic timeline is not achievable. The local agencies will continue to work together to review radio system alternatives, costs, and realistic implementation planning.

Sincerely,



Daniel C. Holler
Town Manager

cc: Town Council
Andrew Morris, Town Attorney
Robert Lawton, CAO
Nate Greenberg, Director County IT
Stacey Simon, County Counsel