



## Office of Emergency Management

### Elected Officials:

*Drew Boyles,*  
Mayor  
*Carol Pirsztuk,*  
Mayor Pro Tem  
*Dr. Don Brann,*  
Council Member  
*Chris Pimentel,*  
Council Member  
*Scot Nicol,*  
Council Member  
*Tracy Weaver,*  
City Clerk  
*Crista Binder,*  
City Treasurer

### Appointed Officials:

*Scott Mitnick,*  
City Manager  
*Mark D. Hensley,*  
City Attorney

### Department Directors:

*Barbara Voss,*  
Deputy City Manager  
*Joseph Lillio,*  
Finance  
*Chris Donovan,*  
Fire Chief  
*David Serrano,*  
Human Resources  
*Charles Mallory,*  
Information Systems  
*Melissa McCollum,*  
Library Services  
*Sam Lee,*  
Planning and  
Building Safety  
*Bill Whalen,*  
Police Chief  
*Ken Berkman,*  
Public Works  
*Meredith Petit,*  
Recreation & Parks

October 4, 2019

Mr. Michael Wilhelm  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau  
Policy and Licensing Division  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

### RE: Wireless Emergency Alert System Test

Dear Mr. Wilhelm,

The City of El Segundo Office of Emergency Management, which is the primary initiator of public alerts in the City of El Segundo, CA, using the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), requests an FCC Rule Waiver to allow a live test of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system involving Commercial Mobile Service (CMS) providers conducting business in El Segundo, CA within Los Angeles County (006037).

The live test, pending your approval, will be sent by the City of El Segundo Office of Emergency Management using the Everbridge Mass Notification System that integrates with IPAWS with the Earthquake Warning (EQW) code. The test would occur on October 17, 2019, between 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (PDT) and will involve the use of a WEA message sent via IPAWS.

The WEA message is planned to broadcast only to cell phones in and adjacent to the City of El Segundo, CA. The test WEA message will read: "*This is a test of the El Segundo Wireless Emergency Alerts System. No action is required.*"

This will be the first live test of the WEA system for the City of El Segundo and will ensure the citizens of El Segundo can have confidence in the city's ability to reliably send emergency notifications to their cellular phones. A new state statute requires El Segundo to be able to alert the public in the event of an incident at the oil refinery using an integrated system. This test is vital to understanding its capabilities and it's the geographic range that the public receive the WEA. Understanding these parameters will be important to building the integrated system in compliance with the new state law.

Additionally, this test will be simultaneous with the annual earthquake exercise called "The Great Shake-out" where we will use other mass notifications systems within our area and conduct exercises of our emergency operations plan, earthquake



plans, and crisis communications plan. Given recent events within California and across the nation, it is imperative the City of El Segundo test and evaluate its ability to send WEA alerts using IPAWS and expose the public to the type of messages they may receive during times of crisis. The City of El Segundo believes it needs to conduct the test on October 17, 2019 so we can move forward with planning and implementation of integrated mass notifications systems to be compliant with the new state law.

The City of El Segundo has already begun to prepare a media campaign targeting the primary test city and surrounding jurisdictions and stakeholders to ensure public understanding of the need and value for the scheduled WEA test. The City of El Segundo will also reach out to the public information officers of the adjacent local jurisdictions to help with distribution to local broadcasters, newspapers, and cable providers. Additionally, the information will be posted on the City of El Segundo web sites and distributed on social media. The City of El Segundo will work with all emergency authorities that operate within and adjacent to El Segundo, including first responder organizations such as law enforcement, fire/EMS agencies, and 911 public safety answering points (PSAPS). These organizations will be informed to ensure they are aware of the test and confirm to the public the WEA message is a test.

The City of El Segundo plans to record the test results and provide a detailed account of any problems that occur in the distribution of the WEA test to your office. The City of El Segundo anticipates that, due to the nature of the proposed test, members of the public outside El Segundo may receive a test and accordingly will address this issue in its outreach materials.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter. If you need further information, please contact me by email at [Rcollins@elsegundo.org](mailto:Rcollins@elsegundo.org) or by telephone at (310) 524-2366.

Sincerely,

Randal A. Collins, Emergency Management Coordinator  
City of El Segundo