



January 2, 2019

Michael J. Wilhelm  
Chief, Policy and Licensing Division  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
445-12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC, 20554

Dear Mr. Wilhelm,

Subject: State of California application for FCC Rule Waiver

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) previously requested an FCC Rule Waiver in November 2018 to conduct a test of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system's ability to transmit earthquake early warning alerts—or Shake Alerts—to cellular phones. The request was postponed as a result of the November wildfire response and recovery operations. Cal OES intends to resume its effort by requesting an exemption from 47 CFR, Part 10 and 47 CFR, Part 11 rules (Waiver) to transmit a test earthquake early warning alert through the WEA system on February 6, 2019, in Oakland, California. The test will be performed by Cal OES in partnership with the United States Geological Survey.

This test will assess the feasibility for transmitting a ShakeAlert through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) WEA system to warn the public of imminent ground motion during an earthquake. Earthquake early warning requires notifications to be distributed within seconds of alert generation to allow people to take protective actions prior to destructive shaking. This test will also provide critical findings that may be used to refine the future development of earthquake early warning integration with IPAWS.

If the waiver is granted, this test will occur between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST) on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. If this date is not available, an alternative testing date would be Wednesday, February 13, 2019 between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. PST. Without this waiver, critical live testing cannot be conducted to evaluate the current capability and future feasibility of end-to-end earthquake early warning transmissions over WEA. The test is needed in advance of any rule changes scheduled to take place in May 2019 because the next large, damaging earthquake could occur at any time. Any further delay could impede the state's ability to alert its residents should a damaging earthquake occur in the near future.

The text of the test will read: "TEST of the CA Earthquake Warning System. No action required. THIS IS A TEST."



As part of this test, Cal OES will complete an outreach campaign with the participating region and appropriate stakeholders. The campaign includes the following elements:

1. There was an announcement and discussion of the proposed test at the California Earthquake Early Warning Advisory Board on September 27, 2018. The advisory board has nine members representing state agencies, county governments, utilities, and private businesses.
2. Cal OES conducted a conference call with members of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) on October 23, 2018 to discuss the nature of the test, coordinate actions with wireless providers to administer the test, and gather input to improve the test design. The proposed alert area polygon was shared with call participants on November 2, 2018. CTIA members were notified of Cal OES' intent to resubmit a waiver request for February 2019.
3. Cal OES has coordinated closely with Oakland's emergency management department and will work with them to expand communication with other local emergency managers in the surrounding areas to ensure that 911 dispatch centers are aware of the test and can answer any calls they may receive by the public.
4. Cal OES will conduct a stakeholder meeting with local, state, federal, and private partners in Oakland in January to further discuss the test, and solicit feedback about its execution.
5. Cal OES will conduct a media campaign in the region within and around the alert area, including sending a press release to local broadcasters and newspapers, airing a public service announcement on local radio stations, and posting pertinent information to websites and social media platforms.

Cal OES will also provide the FCC a detailed account of any problems that occur in the distribution of the WEA test message, in addition to a post-test analysis. If you have any questions, or wish to discuss further, please contact Ryan Arba, Branch Chief of the Cal OES Seismic Hazards Program, at [ryan.arba@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:ryan.arba@caloes.ca.gov) or (916) 845-8132.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



CHRISTINA CURRY  
Deputy Director

cc: Dr. Stephen Hickman, Director, Earthquake Science Center, United States Geological Survey  
Robert Fenton, Regional Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX  
Captain Pace Stokes, Alameda County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Services  
Toshia Shavies Marshall, Emergency Manager, Oakland Office of Emergency Services