April 25, 2019

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| **San Luis Valley E911**  **3110 1st St., Alamosa, CO 81101**  **Tel 719-587-6712 Fax 719-589-1611**  **slve911.org@gmail.com**  **www.slve911.org** |  |

Re: San Luis Valley Emergency Alert Test

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to respectfully request a limited waiver of the Commission’s Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) rules to permit Participating Commercial Mobile Service (CMS) Providers to participate in a WEA test conducted by the Alamosa Regional Communications Center (ARCC). ARCC is the primary and sole Public Safety Answering Point for the counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache making up the San Luis Valley Region, and is the sole Originating Authority for IPAWS for the six counties as well.

As proposed, and if approved, the test would be conducted on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 2:00 PM MST. The test will target the six counties listed above within the San Luis Valley. The message text will read as follows: **This is a test of the San Luis Valley Emergency Alert System. No action required.**

The purpose of conducting a test of the IPAWS WEA system for our area will be to test the readiness, capability and procedures of our emergency alert systems. Of course, our objective of obtaining IPAWS WEA authority is to ensure that we are able to reach not only the residents of the San Luis Valley but also those who may be visiting or traveling through our area. Our agency is understands the great benefit of having WEA available to our residents. This test will allow our agency, our partners and the public to better recognize and understand how emergency alerting will look in our unique area.

Last year the San Luis Valley suffered the third largest wildfire in Colorado history and received higher than average snowfall through the winter. High snowpack levels and forecast above average moisture during the spring and summer brings a severe risk of flooding to our area and will especially impact those areas affected by the wildfire. We would like to be able to test the WEA system in our area before the necessity of having to use the system during an emergency arrives.

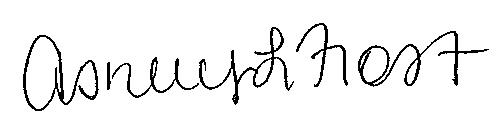
Prior to the test, if approved, we will provide information to the public about when the test will happen and what to expect. We will use media outlets such as, radio and newspaper, also, our social media accounts and those of our emergency preparedness partners to accomplish as public awareness as possible. Using these public outreach channels, we will also be asking for feedback from the public about the test and if they received the message.

I have reached out to FEMA and will also be notifying the Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management of our plan if approved.

Please let me know if any further information is requested.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,



Ashley Frost

MSAG Coordinator

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