May 14, 2019

Michael J. Wilhelm

Chief, Policy and Licensing Division

Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

Re: AMENDED - San Luis Valley Emergency Alert Test – PS Docket Number 15-91, ID Number 1042580098836

Dear Chief Wilhelm,

San Luis Valley 911 hereby amends its letter dated April 25, 2019, in recognition of the necessity of further notifications to wireless providers that need to be made and more time to notify the public of testing, we understand the importance of scheduling a testing date that will allow better preparedness.

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. The PSAP staff and partners have been made aware of the test date and time to allow for the necessary preparations.

As proposed, and if approved, the test would be conducted on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 11:00 am, MDT. 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 SLV Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action required.** If, due to unforeseen circumstances the date needs to be changed, we will conduct the test the following week on June 13, 2019 at 11:00 am, MDT.

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. We have conducted two successful WEA tests within the IPAWS lab.

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.

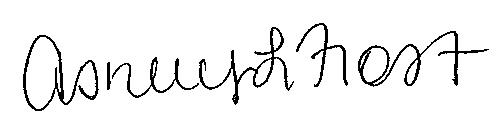
Prior to the test, if approved, we will provide information to the public about when the test will happen and what to expect. We will use media outlets such as, radio and newspaper, also, our social media accounts and those of our emergency preparedness partners to accomplish as public awareness as possible. Using these public outreach channels, we will also be asking for feedback from the public about the test and if they received the message. We will be making hospitals, nursing centers and schools within the test area aware of the test so that they may prepare for any reaction. Other PSAP’s, law enforcement agencies, fire departments and EMS services outside of our jurisdiction and along boundary lines that may be affected by bleed over from the test will be given sufficient notice of the test as well. We are in the process of contacting the wireless service providers in our area to make sure there will be no conflicts on the planned date of testing.

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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