



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

**County Executive Office**

1195 Third Street  
Suite 310  
Napa, CA 94559  
[www.countyofnapa.org](http://www.countyofnapa.org)

Main: (707) 253-4821  
Fax: (707) 259-8681

**Kerry John Whitney**  
Risk & Emergency Services Manager

**Brentt L. Blaser**  
Emergency Services Officer

November 6, 2019

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Reference: Napa County Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA), Emergency Alert System EAS, and NOAA Weather Radio Test (updated from request dated October 25, 2019)

Dear Secretary Dortch:

This letter is to respectfully request approval of an FCC Rule Waiver in order to conduct a live Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test by the Napa County Office of Emergency Services (OES). OES is the primary alert and warning authority for IPAWS in Napa County.

County officials plan to conduct the live test on Friday, December 6, 2019 at 1:00 pm (local time) in conjunction with a Regional Alert & Warning Functional Exercise (F.E.). This end-to-end WEA test would target a portion of Napa County and would be the County's second live test of the WEA system. As a precaution, Napa County OES has established December 11, 2019 at 1:00 pm (local time) as an alternative test date.

Over the past two years northern California has been ravaged by fires and floods culminating in new state alert & warning mandates and a general public suspicious of emergency warning systems. As a result, Napa County OES has collaborated with local and Bay Area partners to update mass notification plans and policies. The intent of this test is to assess the readiness and effectiveness of our public warning system, plans and infrastructure and to raise public awareness about our alerting capability. It will be aligned with a regional functional exercise slated for the morning of December 6, 2019 in which regional partners will assess interagency plans and policies. Napa County will then execute the live WEA test at 1:00 pm (local time) on December 6, 2019.

The proposed text of the test will read: TEST message Napa County. [www.countyofnapa.org/IPAWS](http://www.countyofnapa.org/IPAWS) for feedback. No other action needed.

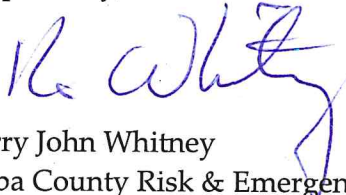
A comprehensive media campaign targeted at our constituents and surrounding counties has been developed and will be actioned to ensure public understanding and value of this scheduled test. The County's Public Information Officer will also reach out to affected local jurisdictions, local broadcasters, newspapers, utility companies, and cable providers as part of the media campaign/public outreach. Napa County OES has already notified the relevant participating CMS providers within Napa County of our testing intent, date, and time.

All emergency response agencies that operate within and adjacent to Napa County, including first responder organizations such as Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS agencies, and 911 public safety answering points (PSAPS), will be informed to ensure they are aware of the test and confirm to the public the WEA, EAS, and NOAA Weather Radio message is a test. The County's Alert & Warning Subcommittee has led in the development of the exercise plan and communicating it with key stakeholders throughout the county.

Following the test, OES, in partnership with the A&W Subcommittee and exercise participants, will complete the evaluation elements of the exercise plan in accordance with HSEEP standards. The evaluation will have several components, field observers strategically located within the test area to evaluate messaging, and responses provided by the public through a web based survey.

We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the FCC and FEMA in order to test Alert and Warning capabilities (WEA functionality) within Napa County. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Respectfully,



Kerry John Whitney  
Napa County Risk & Emergency Services Manager

KJW/kw