



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 17th, 2022

DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

TO: 800 MHz Users Group

FROM: Quinn Korbolic, Regional Services IT Manager, Washoe County
Technology Services, 775-328-2348, qkorbolic@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Behzad Zamanian, Chief Information Officer, Washoe County

SUBJECT: A review, discussion, and possible action to approve expenditures of the Generator replacement at Slide Mountain that supports the Washoe County Regional Communication System (WCRCS) network.

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve and recommend to the Joint Operating Committee approve the expenditures of a new generator for Slide Mountain for a cost of [\$24,920].

Slide Mountain is located in the Tahoe Mountains overlooking both Lake Tahoe, and the Reno Valley. It serves radio coverage along Mount Rose highway on both sides of the Mountain, and can provide radio communications as the way north to the Spanish Springs area. This radio site has great radio coverage, and is an integral piece of the Washoe County Regional communication System. The communication site is ideal for Radio coverage, but is in an area where there are few power customers, and during winter storms often experiences power outages. This site relies heavily on its generator for a redundant power source.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Long-term Sustainability and delivery of efficient regional Services.

PREVIOUS ACTION

N/A

BACKGROUND

In June of 2006, a new building and generator were installed on Slide Mountain, after the original generator and propane tank had exploded. Due to this event it was decided to replace the propane generator with a diesel generator. Since that time the generator has lasted over 16 years, and been through few repairs prior to its failure this year.

Safety is the primary reason for standby generators. Public safety lives depend on radio relies communications, and community lives depend on the ability for public safety to communicate. Power outages are happening more frequent. There are two reasons for major power outages. The first is an aging electrical grid. The American Society of Civil Engineers rates the U.S. electrical grid a D+: Most power lines in the country were built between 1950-60, and they haven't been replaced, even though these power lines only

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have a lifespan of 50 years. The second reason power outages happen more often is because of increasing occurrence of severe weather. Power outages doubled between 2003 and 2014, mostly due to storms and severe weather events. The Tahoe region is no stranger to extreme weather conditions. During storms and major weather events the need for first responders to be able to communicate is very important.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget has sufficient budget authority in Washoe County Regional communication System (210) in RCS Infrastructure (210300), Equipment Capital (781004) in an amount of [\$24,920].

RECOMMENDATION

Approve and recommend to the Joint Operating Committee approve the expenditure for Washoe County Regional Communication System team to purchase new generator for Slide Mountain for the cost of [\$24,920].