

I, Aaron Deguzman, declare:

1. I am a Radio Engineer with the Riverside County Sheriff's Public Safety Enterprise Communications Department (Petitioner). If called as a witness, I can testify to the following based on my personal knowledge.
2. I am familiar with and have reviewed the petition filed in support of Case No. 6229-3 and specifically with the equipment at issue in this petition, Internal Combustion (IC) Engine (P/O G7612) located at 39241 Ortega Hwy, Lake Elsinore, CA92530 Facility ID# 162456).
3. Riverside County Sheriff's Public Safety Enterprise Communications (PSEC) is a public entity that provides communications to and from dispatchers for both law enforcement and many first responder entities throughout the Riverside County.
4. In support of the findings required to grant this interim variance:
  - a. On or about September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, an unforeseen power loss from Southern California Edison (SCE) due to the Airport Fire required the operation of the emergency engines. On September 16<sup>th</sup> the Lake Elsinore engine exceeded the 200 operating hours.
  - b. The Airport fire lasted nearly a month starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September and complete containment wasn't achieved until the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. It scorched multiple areas between Riverside County and Orange County. Riverside County owns and operates four public safety communications sites located along the Main Divide Ridge. Of the four sites, three were threatened by the fire and faced imminent danger. Most if not all resources were engaged to support law enforcement and first responders alike.

- i. Santiago Peak in Corona serves as a key communications hub for Riverside County. Firefighters on the ground required additional support from September 10th to the 12th. Technical staff continuously monitored the fire as it flared up repeatedly, threatening this site.
  - ii. Around the same time, the El Cariso Site in Lake Elsinore, which covers an area between Lake Elsinore and Orange County on and around Ortega Hwy 74, was also being threatened. Technical staff was mobilized to install cameras on September 10th to support the firefighters to the north as the fire traveled south.
  - iii. On September 11<sup>th</sup> the fire was threatening the Elsinore Peak site near El Cariso in Lake Elsinore, which is the prime site for what is called our Southwest Cell, not to mention a major transport site for the California Fire Department. The Public Safety Enterprise Communications Staff supported the firefighters through September 13th, helping to protect Elsinore Peak from harm.
- c. During my time of under two years in this role, Riverside County has not gone over the 200-hour run time allowance. There were certain aspects that I did not fully comprehend and needed extra time to seek clarifications to ensure accuracy causing the delay in processing the petition for variance. As the threat of the fire diminished and the risk to public safety communications decreased around September 19th, PSEC began to explore the petition for variance. Unfortunately, AQMD was closed on the 20th. The petition was initiated on September 23rd with the support of the AQMD clerk and submitted by the 25th. An ex parte variance

was filed and approved on September 25th, 2024. The interim variance was granted on the October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 for the Corona facility and a separate petition was filed for Lake Elsinore on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 per the Board's direction.

- d. The direct cause of noncompliance resulted when SCE's equipment failed because of the Airport Fire, causing an outage to their customers, including at the location of the emergency engines. The circumstances were beyond Petitioner's reasonable control.
- e. The benefit of keeping the engines operational outweighs turning it off due to air contaminants. The engines maintain essential communications, and the generators are located a significant distance away from any residential or business areas. The engines will operate for only one hour for maintenance or during emergencies when utility power is down. We monitor the generator with an alarm system that alerts us when it is running and when it shuts off.
- f. At this time utility power has been restored to Lake Elsinore and generator was switched to off standby on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The generators current hours is 518.3. The variance requested is for future potential emergency use.
- g. If not granted, a large portion of the Cleveland National Forest, along with areas in Corona and Lake Elsinore, could face a lack of critical communications during a power outage, which is essential for law enforcement and first responders.
- h. On or about September 11, 2024, the Governor issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to the Airport Fire. Stating that the fire had prompted evacuation orders and road closures, and continued to threaten structures, homes, critical infrastructure, endangered species, cultural and heritage resources. The

Proclamation also stated that weather conditions had increased the fires' intensity, causing imminent threat to life and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property. Further, the Proclamation recognized that the conditions caused by the Airport Fire, by reason of their magnitude, were beyond the control of the services, personal equipment, and facilities of any single local government.

- i. The County has also filed for a Regular Variance, scheduled to be heard on December 11, 2024.
5. "State of Emergency" Fee Waiver
- a. Consistent with Rule 303 (p), Petitioner Riverside County Sheriff – Public Safety Enterprise Communications hereby requests that excess emission fees beginning with the Emergency Ex Parte Variance granted on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and until the notice hearing can be held on December 11, 2024, be waived due to the "State of Emergency" that caused the power outage.
  - b. Governor Newsome declared a "State of Emergency" starting September 11. This "state of emergency" was called due to the Airport Fire between Orange County and Riverside County.
  - c. It was because of the Airport Fire and "state of emergency" that the Petitioner had to file for a variance for the engine.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the forgoing is true and correct. Executed on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024 in Riverside, California.

  
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Aaron DeGuzman