



SOUTHERN MARIN L.R.A.D. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION NETWORK

SOUTHERN MARIN FIRE DISTRICT

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION DETERMINATION MEMORANDUM

Date: September 23rd, 2021

Project: Southern Marin L.R.A.D. Emergency Notification Network – Southern Marin Fire District

SUMMARY

The Southern Marin Fire District (SMFD) has determined that the Southern Marin Long-Range Acoustic Device (L.R.A.D.) Emergency Notification Network project is categorically exempt under the CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, for Existing Facilities and Section 15303, Class 3, for New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. This Class 1 exempt project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Subsection (f) includes the addition of safety or health protection devices for use during construction of or in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, or topographical features including navigational devices. A Class 3 exempt project consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure.

The SMFD Fire station sites and the Homestead Valley site of the project would involve installation of emergency notification 3 horns on existing structures. The scope of the fire department station sites would be consistent with addition of safety protection devices in conjunction with existing structures, as described in subsection (f) of the Class 1 exemption. The Tiburon, and Sausalito sites of the project would involve installation of emergency notification horns on two (2) new poles. The scope of the Tiburon and Sausalito site is consistent with the construction of new, small structures and minor alterations to the location of the new pole for the horns, as described in the Class 3 exemption.

The following analysis demonstrates that the project's construction and testing during operation would not result in adverse environmental effects, supporting the SMFD's determination that the proposed activities are categorically exempt under CEQA. The project would be conducted in compliance with applicable federal, State, and local regulations and under contractual provisions prohibiting work in violation of applicable regulations and plans.

Addition Summary:

The Long-Range Acoustic Device (L.R.A.D.) is a form of emergency alerting sirens that can provide the communities of Sausalito, Tam Valley, Homestead Valley, Strawberry and Mill Valley with a state-of-the-art evacuation and disaster notification system. The proposed plan is to finance, implement, manage, own, and operate a multijurisdictional public notification system on strategic infrastructure throughout the district. SMFD is the Lead Agency for the L.R.A.D. reporting system pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Article 4, Section 15051.

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The emergency response area for the SMFD and the City of Mill Valley is comprised of 5 geographic zones. Stakeholders within the response areas include the County of Marin, multiple municipal governments, the fire protection district, multiple community service districts, public utility infrastructure, and federal government lands. The following is a list of all current community benefactors from a L.R.A.D. system.

Table 1: L.R.A.D. Coverage of Agencies/Communities

<u>Agencies:</u>	<u>Communities of:</u>
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)	Marin City
County of Marin (Parks Department, Fire Department)	Tam Valley Community Service District
Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD)	Mill Valley
City of Mill Valley (Fire Department)	Homestead Valley
City of Sausalito	Strawberry
Town of Tiburon	Sausalito
Southern Marin Fire District	Tiburon

CEQA BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

A detailed Notice of Exemption (NOE) was prepared for the Southern Marin L.R.A.D. Emergency Notification Network – Mill Valley and Sausalito (dated September 16th, 2021) by the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority (MWPA) on behalf of the lead agency of SMFD for additional portions of this notification network. The scope of the NOE is to identify potential impacts of the two types of proposed sites that are like the identified sites in this report, in both installation type and location, including the detailed potential impacts to Land Use, Aesthetic Resources and Environmental Impact.

It was determined by the above-mentioned report, “The operation of the LRAD during an emergency was determined as statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code 21080(b)(4): actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency, and thus the impacts of operation of the system in an emergency are not discussed further. Information regarding the purpose and need for the project, a description of proposed activities, a discussion of why the exceptions to a categorical exemption for unusual circumstances do not apply, and an assessment of the potential for environmental effects of the LRAD construction and testing during operation are provided below.”

Marin County voters passed Measure C in 2020, which established a 17-member Joint Powers Authority, the MWPA, to fund and oversee proactive state-of-the-art wildfire prevention and preparedness efforts within Marin County. Members include several cities and towns, fire protection districts, and community service districts. The MWPA was formed to develop and implement a comprehensive wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness plan throughout almost all of Marin County. This project is a Core Project

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that is funded by and within the purview of the MWPA. Core Projects include those projects that focus on wildfire detection, notification, and evacuation; vegetation management and fire hazard reduction; grants management; and public education.

Additional Background:

The NOE for the Mill Valley and Sausalito selected sites (dated September 16th, 2021) has been provided through the MWPA to determine categorical exemption status. This new NOE will reference the available information provided within the NOE dated September 16th, 2021, as part of this notification network and use the categorical exemptions identified within.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the project is to install emergency alerting sirens in the communities identified in Table 1 to provide evacuation and disaster notification. Many of the communities and neighborhoods served by this project are registered Firewise USA communities. This style of a notification network was specifically outlined with the 2020 Southern Marin Fire Protection District WUI Wildfire Hazard & Risk Assessment. The system will be installed and implemented in regular testing and evacuation drills in a way to prepare the current residents and future communities of the area.

L.R.A.D. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SITE LOCATIONS

The L.R.A.D. Notification Network would update SMFD's current Emergency Notification to utilize new style of audible siren currently available. The L.R.A.D. system would also be integrated into the existing Everbridge system to provide improved public service and emergency communication coverage within the southern region of Marin. The L.R.A.D. system will improve regional and wide-area communications between first responders and the public in the event of a large-scale emergency or need for public notification. Individual cities and member agencies could share this common tool for enhanced communication links and inter-departmental public messaging.

Many portions of the existing network are primarily operated by the Marin County Office of Emergency Services (OES), with secondary access by all emergency response agencies. This structure allows greater cooperation for public safety while preserving local sovereignty. The enhancements with the L.R.A.D. installations would provide for all sirens on this network to be accessible in the same way.

The following project area descriptions are being provided specific based on individual site parameters in comparison to the like installations evaluated in the "Southern Marin Zone LRAD Emergency Notification Network – Mill Valley and Sausalito" notice of exemption (Dated September 16th, 2021):

Project Sites

The LRAD locations would be installed at five sites, one at each of the SMFD stations numbered 4 and 9, one in the City of Sausalito above Rodeo, one in Homestead Valley near the community center, and one

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in the Town of Tiburon near or on the Bel Aire campus. The Sausalito site is a vacant parcel on City of Sausalito-owned property. The vacant lot has an underground Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) water storage tank located with existing power and an independent radio pole. The Homestead Valley site is an existing private school campus on Mill Valley School District owned property, between the Marin Horizon Campus and The Homestead Valley Community Center. The Town of Tiburon site would be replacing or adding to coverage on the Bel Aire School campus owned by the Reed Union School District. The locations of each proposed site are shown in Figure 1.

Construction Installation Method

LRAD units would be installed at each project site. Each horn would be approximately 18 inches wide, 16 inches long and 10 inches high and white in color. The LRAD units at the Fire Station sites and the Homestead Valley site would be installed on the buildings. The LRAD unit would be mounted on the roof top of the buildings and would include installation of four horns, which would achieve a 140 to 360-degree range of notification. Electricity to power the horns would be provided from the existing power at the buildings and/or back up solar powered battery units.

The LRAD unit at the pole mounted sites (see Table 3 for specific site installation methods) would be mounted on a new approximately 50-foot-tall steel pole. The LRAD unit would include installation of 8 horns to achieve a 360-degree range of notification. A Bobcat skid-steer would excavate a hole, the pole would be direct-buried to a depth of approximately 12 feet, and the hole would be backfilled with the excavated material. An overhead electrical line would be installed from the existing power pole to the proposed LRAD pole, to provide electricity to operate the horn. Although not anticipated, any electrical line may be installed underground and would require an approximately 15-foot long, 1.5-foot-wide and 2-foot-deep trench to be excavated to install an underground electrical line from the existing power pole to the proposed LRAD pole, to provide electricity to operate the horn on a dedicated 30a breaker.

Installation activities at all the pole mounted sites would require two bucket trucks, two utilities trucks, two pole trailers, and a skid-steer. Heavy equipment would not be needed for the roof mounted installations.

Site Access

All installation sites will be access in an approved manner from major roadways, avoiding access over lands and properties where prior permissions or easements have not been granted. Primary access will be along emergency vehicle access roads and public roadways near each site.

Workers

Contractor crews would install the horns and associated infrastructure at each project site. Each contractor crew would be comprised of four to six persons. No more than one contractor crew would be required at each project site.

Schedule and Duration

LRAD horn installation would take approximately 3 to 4 days to complete at each site. Installation activities would occur on weekdays from 8am to 5pm. Installation is anticipated to start in Fall 2021.

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Operation and Testing

The project includes regular testing of the LRAD horns once a month for approximately 30 to 60 seconds. Testing would occur on the first Saturday of every month for both LRAD units, as is currently being conducted for existing emergency notification systems in the City of Mill Valley and other emergency horn systems in the area. The LRAD horns do not require regular maintenance.

Project Design and Implementation Features

The SMFD has developed specific design and implementation features that will be incorporated as applicable into the project design and implementation for each of its projects. The specifics of these project design features are like those established by the MWPA, as it specifically pertains to fire and life safety and environmental impacts.

L.R.A.D. Project Objectives:

The L.R.A.D. project improves necessary and required communications between covered agencies to benefit residents, businesses, and visitors. SMFD has defined six objectives for the L.R.A.D. Emergency Notification Network:

1. Install a new emergency notification system utilizing funds as outlined in Measure C by a vote of the public in November 2020.
2. Modify the existing SMFD emergency notification system with new L.R.A.D. technology to mirror efforts in the City of Mill Valley completed in 2019.
3. Improve southern Marin County communications coverage to notify the public in the event of a large-scale disaster or evacuation order.
4. Provide L.R.A.D. communications coverage to meet needs of areas as designated in the 2020 SMFD WUI Wildfire Hazard & Risk Assessment, by delivering audible sirens and alerts.
5. Integrate the new installations into the current Marin County Office of Emergency Services (OES) communications system.
6. Maintain compliance with all land use, permitting, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

The L.R.A.D. sites are primarily linked to satellite services to provide centralized management and limited interruptions in services. All new sites will join the existing 5 sites in the City of Mill Valley to provide alerting coverage for the more densely populated Highway 101 corridor in the southern most region of Marin County. While most locations would utilize a satellite communication uplink and others may use hard wire connections if determined to be required.

The L.R.A.D. System would retain and upgrade 2 of the currently functioning sites, adding equipment to eight sites, decommission and relocate no current notification infrastructure. All of the new L.R.A.D. sites are on previously developed parcels, some with communications equipment, others are water tank

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sites or community centers in the wildland urban interface of southern Marin County. Below is a summary of the existing and proposed L.R.A.D. sites.

Table 2: Summary of Existing and Proposed Sites for the Southern Marin L.R.A.D. Emergency Notification Network

Summary of Existing and Proposed Sites for the Southern Marin L.R.A.D. Emergency Notification Network

Updated: 09/01/2021
M. Nau

Site No.	FD Zone Covergae	Installation/Funding Year	Site Name	Assessor's Parcel Number (Source Marin Map City & Town Planner 2021)	Coordinates (4/19/2021)	Ground Elevation (feet)
1	Zone 1	2020_21	MMWD Sausalito Marinship Tank	064-133-01	37.86231, 122.49878	250
2	Zone 1	2021_22	Change (Cloudview Park) Station #2	065-181-44	37.851822, 122.489853	610
3	Zone 4	2020_21	Homestead Valley Community Center (HVCC)	047-161-05	37.896518, 122.544595	75
4	Zone 4	2020_21	SMFD Station #4	050-252-20	37.8785, 122.53388	10
5	Zone 4	TBD	Eastwood Park	049-074-25	37.881834, 122.546312	110
6	Zone 4/6	2021_22	City of MV Edgewood Reservoir	046-070-03	37.902789, 122.561250	565
7	Zone 6/7	Removed	Change (Escalon Tank) Removed	033-101-50	N/A	N/A
8	Zone 9	2020_21	Bel Aire School	038-322-10	37.903378, 122.497703	80
9	Zone 9	2020_21	SMFD Station #9	043-261-21	37.8905, 122.50640	170
10	Zone 7	TBD	Summit Ave Upper Tank	027-074-10	37.916286, 122.559396	660
11	Zone 6	2019	Mill Valley City Hall	028-014-16	37.907355, 122.547795	70
12	Zone 6	2019	Cascade Canyon	027-161-17	37.911426, 122.562510	170
13	Zone 6/7	2019	Mill Valley Golf Course	029-131-07	37.911225, 122.535720	100
14	Zone 6/7	2019	Vasco Court	033-240-15	37.910163, 122.524814	50
15	Zone 6	2019	Ralston White Retreat	027-021-02	37.922397, 122.558297	480

The updates to the existing sites, as well as the development of the new sites, are being considered together as an enhancement to the existing emergency notification system.

SMFD's L.R.A.D. Network Site Locations:

Figure 1 shows the L.R.A.D. site locations and configuration for expected coverage. Table 3 below, provides baseline or existing conditions information as well as a description of proposed physical

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changes at each site. Also included are details for the proposed sites including the Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs), jurisdiction information, latitude/longitude coordinates, and ground elevations at each of the project sites. Both elevation and coordinates are provided to give a general location of installation and may be subject to minor adjustments due to access and installations.

L.R.A.D. Project Installation and Construction:

Upon SMFD's final approval of the Southern Marin L.R.A.D. Emergency Notification Network, installation would begin as soon as leases and any other necessary entitlements and agreements are secured. Site construction is expected to take less than one year for the entire L.R.A.D. Notification Network.

Installation activities and their duration at any given site would vary according to the nature of the site-specific facilities. Site construction may be required and last up to three months at any one site. No sites require selective grading of any existing access road. No sites require the construction of any new shelter building or fencing. Upon completion of all installation, SMFD in partnership with Genysis (formerly known as L.R.A.D.), would conduct testing and optimization of the system, which would take approximately one year. During this period, regular operation of the L.R.A.D. Notification Network is expected to begin in late 2021. The proposed project is expected to operate for several years, as determined by the manufacturer. During that time, regular inspections and maintenance would occur on each site as required.

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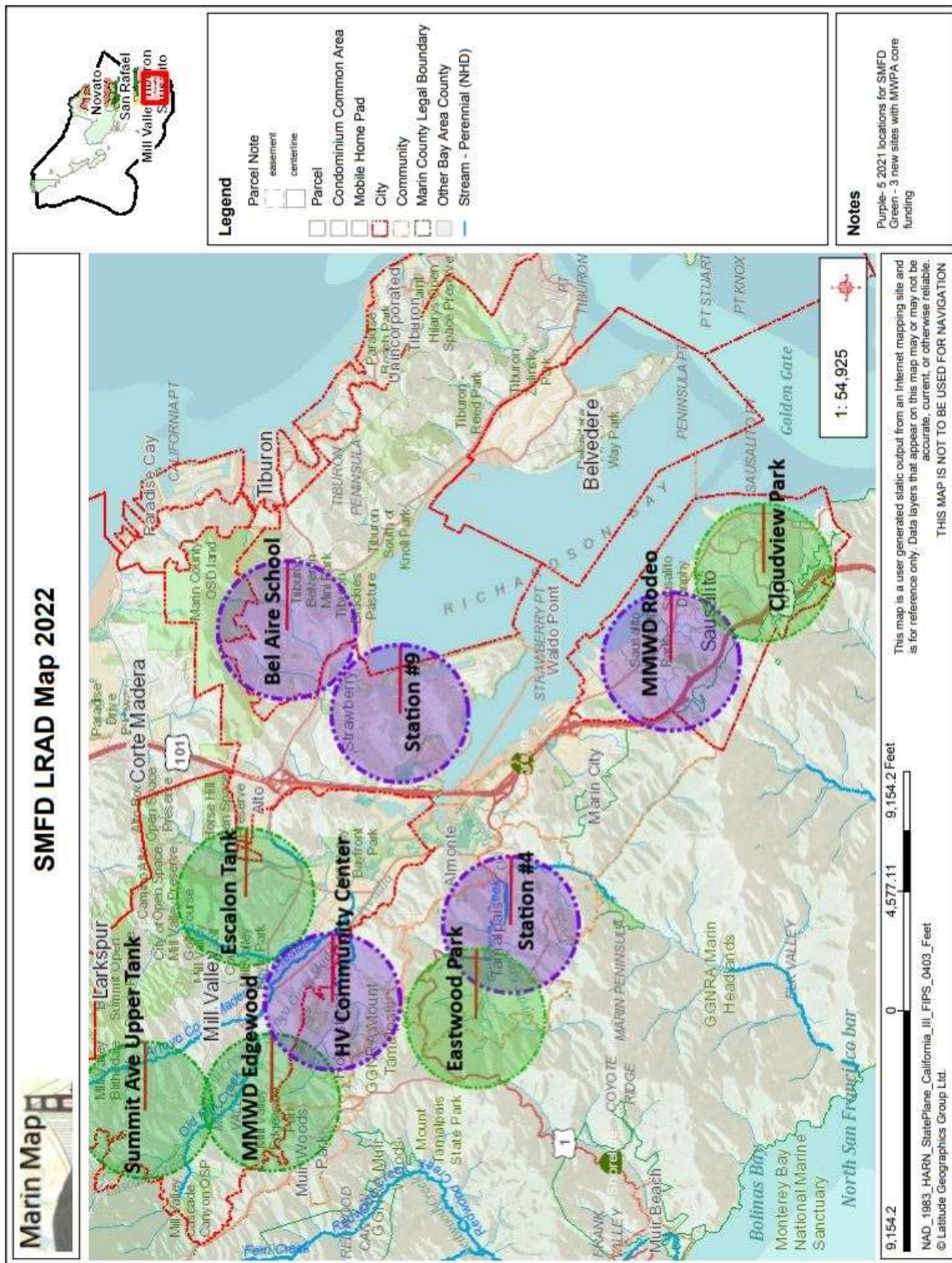
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Figure 1. L.R.A.D. Emergency Notification Network of Southern Marin Fire District

A map of the multiple sites located in southern Marin with circles depicting the coverage/range.



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Table 3. L.R.A.D. project Description Summary by Site (Subject to limited changes to coordinates)

Site No.	FD-Zone Coverage	Funding Year	Site Name	Assessor's Parcel Number (Source Marin Map City & Town Planner 2021)	Coordinates (4/19/2021)	Ground Elevation (feet)	Existing Infrastructure at Site Communication Towers, Buildings, and Equipment	Stakeholders
1	Zone 1	2020_21	MMWWD Sausalito Marinship Tank	064-133-01	37.86231, 122.49878	250	Attached to new or existing pole structure with power source from MMWWD.	City of Sausalito (property owner), MMWWD (leasee/power), SMFD (community outreach)
2	Zone 1	2021_22	Change (Cloudview Park) Station #2	065-181-44	37.851822, 122.489853	610	Attached to existing pole structure or building with power source from City.	City of Sausalito (property owner/power access), SMFD (community outreach)
3	Zone 4	2020_21	Homestead Valley Community Center (HVCC)	047-161-05	37.896518, 122.544595	75	Stand alone pole to be installed with power from existing structure. Second stakeholder meeting needed.	Marin County (licensing/permits), Homestead Valley Community Center (leasee/power), SMFD (HSV community outreach)
4	Zone 4	2020_21	SMFD Station #4	050-252-20	37.8785, 122.53388	10	Roof mounting replacing an existing outdoor siren. Requires coordination with cell towers.	SMFD (TCSD community outreach/power)
5	Zone 4	2021_22	Eastwood Park	049-074-25	37.881834, 122.546312	110	Attached to new pole structure with power source from Tam Valley Service District or solar power.	County of Marin (permits), TCSD (property owner/power), MMWWD (leasee/power), SMFD (community outreach)
6	Zone 4/6	2021_22	City of MV Edgewood Reservoir	046-070-03	37.902789, 122.561250	565	Existing water storage site with a local power pole and parkinglot owned by MV City.	City of Mill Valley (permits), MVFD/SMFD (community outreach)
7	Zone 6/7	Removed	Change (Escalator Tank)	033-101-50	N/A	N/A	This site already has coverage.	Removed from site list.
8	Zone 9	2020_21	Bel Aire School	038-322-10	37.903378, 122.497703	80	Locate in two potential locations on campus. Requires review with school director & board approval.	Reed Union School District (property owner), Marin County (permits), SMFD (community outreach)
9	Zone 9	2020_21	SMFD Station #9	043-261-21	37.8905, 122.50640	170	Roof mounting replacing an existing outdoor siren.	SMFD (Strawberry community outreach/power)
10	Zone 7	TBD	Summit Ave Upper Tank	027-074-10	37.916286, 122.559396	660	TBD - Requires a new or existing pole with power from MMWWD. Requires site visit.	City of Mill Valley (permits), MMWWD (leasee/power), MVFD (community outreach)

SMFD/MVFD L.R.A.D. Notification Network Project Sites 2021-2022

Updated: 06/28/2021 M. Nau