



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Christian Tubbs, Fire Chief
Tom Welch, Deputy Chief of Operations
Marshal Nau, Fire Inspector

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the installation of LRAD

DATE: June 6, 2022

Approved for Forwarding:

Alan Piombo, City Manager

- 1 **Issue:**
- 2 Expansion of the outdoor alerting system known as the Long-Range Acoustic Device
- 3 (LRAD).
- 4
- 5 **Recommendation:**
- 6 Discuss and approve the attached resolution.
- 7
- 8
- 9 **Background:**
- 10 On March 7, 2022, Chief Tubbs, Chief Welch, and Inspector Nau provided a presentation
- 11 regarding the current state of LRAD and the future opportunities (attachment 1). The
- 12 Edgewood Reservoir parking lot (APN: 046-070-02) was identified as a potential
- 13 candidate for system expansion. Further, the location was determined through feedback
- 14 provided by the community of an underserved area of Mill Valley. The site was also
- 15 selected to provide services to the unincorporated Mill Valley and the upper reaches of
- 16 the Homestead Valley. Funding was identified and approved through the budget of the
- 17 2021/2022 FY Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority.
- 18
- 19 **Discussion:**
- 20 Funding and a location have been identified for the City’s next LRAD installation. We
- 21 are now seeking approval to install a utility pole not to exceed the height of existing

City Council Staff Report

Subject LRAD Expansion

Date June 6, 2022

22 utility poles on a City-owned parcel (APN: 046-070-02). See attachments 3 and 4. Our
23 current and future steps include:

- 24 1. Design team site visit and sound sculpting assessment.
- 25 2. Environmental compliance CEQA (attachment 2)
- 26 3. Approval of resolution supporting the project and dedicating a portion of the
27 parking lot for LRAD Installation.
- 28 4. Community Outreach:
 - 29 a. Neighborhood meeting (tentatively scheduled for mid-June 2022)
 - 30 b. Neighborhood education program.
- 31 5. Installation of the LRAD system (tentatively scheduled for mid-July 2022)
- 32 6. Testing of the LRAD system (monthly on schedule with other Mill Valley sites).

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34 This specific site will have a satellite downlink operated by a battery charged through
35 solar panels. As a result, the site is resilient to cellular network failure and public safety
36 power shutoffs.

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38 **Conclusion:**

39 The Edgewood Reservoir LRAD site will enhance our outdoor alerting capabilities along
40 Edgewood Ave Mill Valley. The Long Range Acoustic Device installed in this
41 neighborhood will provide real-time instructions to residents at risk from wildfire during
42 an evacuation. In addition, the capabilities add redundancy for our community in an
43 emergency evacuation.

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45 **Fiscal Impact:**

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47 Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority Budget = \$122,000

48 City of Mill Valley Budget = \$0

49

50 **Attachments:**

51

52 1. Resolution

53 2. CEQA Compliance

54 3. Site Map

55 4. Technical specifications.

56 5. March 7, 2022, LRAD Emergency Notification Report to City Council