



Los Altos Police Department PRESS RELEASE

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****Los Altos Police Department Emergency Communications Tower Arrives****

On June 17, 2008 the Emergency Communications Microwave Tower was delivered to the Los Altos Police Department. Assembly of the tower is expected to continue for the next two weeks and installation should be completed by the end of June 2008. Once completed, the Los Altos Tower will become the first link in the regional Emergency Communications (E-COMM) system. The completion of the entire microwave loop is scheduled for December 2008. Once the loop is completed and the system is operational it will provide real time information sharing between Emergency Communications centers throughout the region. This will improve the City of Los Altos' ability to respond to emergencies, both day to day and during a large scale event.

In 1998, the Santa Clara County Police and Fire Chiefs' Associations and the Public Safety Communications Managers' Association, under the general direction of the Santa Clara County/Cities Managers' Association (SCC/CMA) agreed to develop improvements in emergency services interoperability.

In 2003, the San Jose Police Department and the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Project (SVRIP) group submitted a grant request to the U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of this grant was to replace the City of San Jose's outdated analog microwave system with the latest digital technology and extend the microwave connectivity to all Emergency 9-1-1 Centers in the region, including the Los Altos Police 9-1-1 Center.

The grant request was approved, and the microwave project known as E-COMM began. The E-COMM microwave infrastructure will serve as the backbone for all Regional Interoperability Projects now and in the future. The project is managed by staff from the City of San Jose with the assistance from involved public safety agencies.

In preparation for tower construction in Los Altos, City staff conducted its first public meeting to introduce the project on February 28, 2006. At that meeting the City Council directed staff to move forward with the project and to report back once the height of the tower had been determined, and the required California Environmental Quality Act Impact Study and soil tests were completed.

After extensive engineering research and a regional needs assessment it was determined that a single 140 foot "Monopole" would need to be constructed adjacent to the south end of the Los Altos Police Department. On January 22, 2008, City staff conducted its second public meeting to report the research findings and provide an update to the project. At that meeting the City Council approved the project and gave direction to start installation of the microwave tower.

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