



City Council Report

Date: April 21, 2014
To: City Council
Through: Alex Deshuk, Manager of Technology & Innovation
From: Randy Thompson, Communications Administrator
Subject: Request to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community for Radio Communications Site Sharing – Citywide

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement that allows the City of Mesa and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to share radio communications sites.

Background

The City of Mesa and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community have individually constructed communications sites that house radio systems that support their respective radio users. Each agency owns sites that could potentially benefit the other agency in terms of improved radio coverage, particularly for Public Safety. To take advantage of these benefits, an Intergovernmental Agreement that authorizes site sharing when technically feasible is required.

Discussion

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community owns and maintains radios communications sites throughout their community just north of Mesa. A site sharing agreement would allow the City of Mesa to install infrastructure at one or more of these sites that would augment the coverage of Mesa's communications systems.

Likewise, Mesa owns and maintains radios sites throughout Mesa and on two nearby mountaintops. A site sharing agreement would allow the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to install infrastructure at one or more of Mesa's sites to improve the coverage of their radio systems.

Once this Intergovernmental Agreement is executed, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community will be installing new radio communications infrastructure in space reserved for Mesa in the communications site on Thompson Peak. This installation

will include the upgrade of the TOPAZ radio equipment in the Thompson Peak site (valued at \$301,000) at no cost to the members of the TOPAZ Regional Wireless Cooperative.

Alternatives

1. Execute the Intergovernmental Agreement and allow the City of Mesa and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to share radio communications sites where it is technically feasible and financially advantageous to do so.
2. Take no action. If this agreement is not approved, it will prevent the City and the Indian Community from taking advantage of pre-existing communications sites. The City may incur additional expense if communications sites need to be developed and constructed to support City of Mesa communications needs, and the City will have to pay for the upgrade of the TOPAZ equipment on Thompson Peak in the future (cost of \$301,000 today).

Fiscal Impact

Execution of this Intergovernmental Agreement will allow the City of Mesa to utilize existing tower sites owned by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, reducing costs associated with the expansion of coverage of the City's radio communications systems. In addition, the City, as a member of the TOPAZ Regional Wireless Cooperative, will avoid the cost (\$301,000) of upgrading the existing TOPAZ radio equipment at the site on Thompson Peak.