



Public Safety Committee Report

Date: March 2, 2015
To: Public Safety Committee
Through: John Pombier, Deputy City Manager
From: Beth Huning, City Engineer
Rob Kidder, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Mesa Regional Dispatch Center – Site Selection
City Project CP0340

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Public Safety Committee on the recommended site for the Mesa Regional Dispatch Center. Based on the evaluation criteria presented herein, the vacant City-owned lot at 3200 East McDowell Road, next to the Val Vista Water Treatment Plant, is recommended as the location of the new facility. City Staff seeks the Committee's input and concurrence before proceeding with design.

Background

In November 2013, City of Mesa voters approved the Public Safety Bond Program which included \$16 Million for a new Dispatch/Communications Center and Backup Radio Network Infrastructure. The existing dispatch center does not have adequate redundancy and space is limited, with the existing dispatch center operating at capacity. The additional communications center will allow for expansion of existing services and provide necessary redundancy and resiliency.

Discussion

In order to find a site for the new dispatch and communications center, site evaluation criteria were used to determine the most suitable location. Key issues analyzed in the evaluation criteria included adequate parcel size, site accessibility, land use compatibility, existing infrastructure, redundancy and resiliency, drainage concerns, and

other existing site conditions pertinent to site development. Using the City of Mesa database, all available City-owned properties were listed and then screened based on the site evaluation criteria. Ten City-owned sites and two non-City owned sites were chosen for more in-depth review. Based on site visits, analysis of existing infrastructure, and receiving feedback from utility companies, these sites were evaluated to determine which site would serve as the preferred location for the new communications center. The accompanying PowerPoint© presentation gives additional information about the evaluation process. The site located next to the Val Vista Water Treatment Plant at 3200 East McDowell Road, is the location recommended by City Staff since it best met all of the criteria established for site selection. This site offers the following advantages:

- City Owned
- Adequate Parcel Size
- Ease of Access
- Land Use Compatibility
- Existing Utility and Roadway Infrastructure
- Provides Telephone Wire Center Redundancy / Resiliency
- Minimal Site Improvements Required

Alternatives

During the course of the investigation the site located at the SEC of Power Road and Adobe was determined to be a viable option, but was more constrained as to parcel size and offers less options for phasing construction. Development costs may also be higher for this site. For these reasons, the site adjacent to the Val Vista Water Treatment Plant remains the preferred location.

Coordinated With

The Fire, Police, and Communication Departments have reviewed the provided information and concur with this report and recommendation.