



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 14, 2025

DATE: October 1, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Quinn Korbolic, Information Technology Manager, Technology Services, 755-328-2348, qkorbolic@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Behzad Zamanian, Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve Change Order Number 20 to the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and Harris Corporation Communications Systems Segment (L3Harris), dated September 27, 2018; to approve the final scope of work regarding construction on the Red Peak Communications Site for a cost not to exceed [\$329,180.86]; if approved, authorize the County's Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the Change Order; and authorize L3Harris to commence construction activities at the Red Peak Site. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Staff is recommending that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve Change Order Number 20 to the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and L3Harris, dated September 27, 2018, to approve the final scope of work regarding construction on the Red Peak Communications Site for a cost not to exceed [\$329,180.86], and authorize L3Harris to commence construction activities on the Red Peak Communication Site.

The Red Peak site is located on parcel APN 502-250-07. The site location is commonly known as Red Hill, which is just north of the Truckee Meadows Community College Dandini campus. Development of the Red Peak site is a critical step in advancing the Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS) project, which is a collaborative effort among Washoe County, the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), and NV Energy to provide a modern, interoperable public safety radio system for the region.

The Red Peak site is a vital component of the broader NSRS upgrade, which is designed to replace aging system infrastructure, enhance system capacity, and ensure compliance with current public safety communications standards. The Red Peak site is a key hub in Washoe County's portion of the NSRS because, as part of the "Metro Simulcast", it provides radio coverage to a larger populated area than any other radio site in the Washoe County system. The new Red Peak site will replace an existing tower that is currently leased from American Tower Corp. Additionally, the new site's location on Red Peak is optimal, when compared to the existing site, because it provides better backhaul

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connectivity and is subject to substantially less interference from other radio and telecommunication facilities on Red Peak.

Construction costs for the project at the Red Peak site have increased for various reasons, but primarily, due to scope of work changes including the addition of a retaining wall and modification to electrical systems. Staff is seeking Board approval of the change order to enable the County to move forward with construction at the Red Peak site, which is a key location identified to address radio coverage gaps and improve communications reliability for first responders and public safety agencies in Washoe County.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability

PREVIOUS ACTION

On March 24, 2025, the Board approved and ratified the First Addendum to the P25 Radio System Interlocal Agreement, June 2020. The addendum specifically addressed increased construction costs associated with the P25 Radio System, which have increased by \$3,963,706 since the execution of the P25 Radio System Interlocal Agreement. The addendum specifies the shared financial responsibility among Partner Agencies ensuring that each entity contributes proportionately based on their usage of the system.

On May 14, 2024, the Board approved and signed a lease agreement between Washoe County and Desert View Commercial Properties, LLC for the County to rent real property known as East Red Peak (APN 502-250-07) for the purpose of constructing, installing, and operating a communications site for the NSRS. The lease has a 10-year term beginning July 1, 2024, with an option to renew for an additional ten years.

On May 26, 2020, the Board accepted and ratified the Washoe County Regional Communication System P25 Radio System Interlocal Agreement which establishes an operational and management structure that provides the opportunity for signing agencies to participate in the ongoing governance, administration and management of the P25 Radio System; and a framework to allocate costs of the system to signing agencies proportionate to their use of the radio system.

On September 25, 2018, the Board approved the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and Harris Corporation, Communications System Segment, in the amount of \$26,537,510.68; and authorized the Washoe County Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.

On May 9, 2017, the Board approved and directed the County Manager to sign the Nevada Shared Radio System Contract between the NDOT, NV Energy, and Washoe County, as recommended by the Joint Operating Committee of the Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS). This action established the interagency partnership and governance structure for the statewide NSRS upgrade, which underpins all subsequent site development and procurement actions.

The Board's actions reflect a strategic commitment to enhancing public safety communications infrastructure through collaborative governance and financial responsibility. These decisions align with the Washoe County Strategic Objective(s) of Fiscal Sustainability and fostering Safe, Secure, and Healthy Communities by partnering with regional and statewide agencies to share the cost-burden of building and upgrading these important public safety systems; and ensuring robust communication systems for emergency services.

BACKGROUND

The NSRS project is a multi-year, multi-agency initiative to modernize and expand public safety communications infrastructure across Washoe County and the State of Nevada. The NSRS is a collaborative partnership among Washoe County, NDOT, and NV Energy, each of which owns and operates a portion of the statewide radio network. The system is designed to provide interoperable, reliable communications for first responders, public safety agencies, and critical infrastructure operators throughout the region; to support daily operations for various public agencies; and to provide coordinated response in cases of emergencies and disasters.

The origins of the NSRS date back to the late 1990s, when Washoe County and other regional partners established the WCRCS to address the need for shared radio infrastructure and coordinated governance. Over time, the WCRCS and its partners recognized the limitations of the legacy Enhanced Digital Access Communications System (EDACS), which had reached end-of-life status and was no longer supported by the manufacturer. This situation created significant operational risks, including the inability to obtain replacement parts, software updates, or technical support, and limited the system's capacity to accommodate new users or evolving public safety requirements.

In response, Washoe County, NDOT, and NV Energy undertook a comprehensive planning and procurement process to replace the aging system with a modern, standards-based solution. The partners executed an interlocal agreement in 2017 to formalize the governance structure for the NSRS and to coordinate the procurement of a new Project 25 (P25) Phase II radio system, which is recognized as the national standard for public safety communications. Following a competitive request for proposals administered by NDOT, L3Harris was selected as the system vendor. Each partner agency entered into a separate System Purchase Agreement with L3Harris in 2018, establishing the contractual framework for the design, construction, and implementation of the new statewide system.

The System Purchase Agreement provides for site-specific change orders to authorize construction and development activities at individual radio sites, including new sites identified to address coverage gaps and improve system reliability. The Red Peak Communications Site is one such location, selected through technical analysis as a priority for enhancing radio coverage in Washoe County. The process for advancing site development includes securing property rights, completing engineering and reviews, and executing change orders to define the scope, schedule, and cost of construction activities.

Changes to the scope of work for the Red Peak Site addressed in Change Order Number 20 include the addition of a retaining wall and modifications to electrical systems. The retaining wall was added to the scope of work after the design and engineering studies indicated that a retaining wall would be necessary to ensure stability of the radio tower and shelter due to their position on a sloped portion of the parcel (APN 502-250-07). Electrical changes are required because only single-phase power is available at the Red Peak Site. Any electrical equipment designed for three-phase power must be modified to accommodate single-phase power.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact to the County for approving Change Order Number 20 is estimated to be [\$329,180.86]. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 has sufficient budget authority for Change

Order Number 20 in the amount not to exceed [\$329,180.86] in NSRS Debt 2020 (PW920408), Construction Contracts (781080).

The cost associated with Change Order Number 20 and Washoe County's portion of the NSRS project is managed through a combination of previously issued general obligation bonds, special revenue funds, and partner agency contributions, as outlined in the County's Capital Improvement Plan, the P25 Radio System Interlocal Agreement, and First Addendum to the P25 Radio System Interlocal Agreement. The NSRS project's financing structure was established to ensure that site-specific expenditures, such as those for the Red Peak Communications Site, are supported by dedicated capital project funds and do not require additional appropriations from the County's General Fund. The milestone payment schedule for this change order is structured to align with project progress, with payments released upon completion of defined construction phases.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve Change Order Number 20 to the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and L3Harris dated September 27, 2018; to approve the final scope of work regarding construction on the Red Peak Communications Site for a cost not to exceed [\$329,180.86]; if approved, authorize the County's Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the Change Order; and authorize L3Harris to commence construction activities at the Red Peak Site.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve Change Order Number 20 to the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and L3Harris dated September 27, 2018; to approve the final scope of work regarding construction on the Red Peak Communications Site for a cost not to exceed [\$329,180.86]; authorize the County's Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the Change Order; and authorize L3Harris to commence construction activities at the Red Peak Site."