



File Code: 1230; 5100**Date:** May 11, 2021**Route To:****Subject:** SDG&E Support**To:** Whom it May Concern

The U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Operations Southern California (USFS-PSW-OSC) has been in discussions with San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) regarding SDG&E efforts to test a mesh communications system to support aerial, HD data and infrared video streaming from an SDG&E helicopter. SDG&E would provide the stream live and in real-time to the SDG&E Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in an effort to improve situational awareness for emergency operators during wildfires and emergency events. Federal and state emergency operators may interface with the EOC for real-time information updates during the helicopter's flight. For this testing, SDG&E requires at least 10 MHz within the 2 GHz or 4 GHz band for a six-month testing term to operate when the emergency situation dictates. SDG&E, therefore, submits this application for an experimental license with the Federal Communications Commission to enable these efforts.

The USFS-PSW-OSC and SDG&E have a history of successful collaboration in serving the public interest. Through a three-and-a-half-year collaborative effort, the USFS-PSW-OSC and SDG&E worked together in the development of the Santa Ana Wind Threat Index (SAWTI) resulting in a product unveiling on September 17, 2014. SDG&E continues this collaborative work with USFS-PSW-OSC through providing data and application of data collected towards the SAWTI daily product.

The USFS-PSW-OSC plans to continue this collaborative work well into the future and intends to work with SDG&E in this proposed testing in order to improve situational awareness for federal emergency operators during wildfires. The USFS-PSW-OSC supports SDG&E's innovative efforts in this matter and looks forward to working with SDG&E in this important project to promote the public interest and improve wildfire mitigation efforts.

In the event there are implications to federal wildland firefighting frequencies in California, the Region 5 Frequency Coordinator and/or the National Radio Frequency Coordinator will be consulted.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Randal Skelton, Assistant Fire Director Southern California Operation
Fire & Aviation Management

