



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service
11440 West Bernardo Court, Suite 230
San Diego, CA 92127-1643
January 30, 2015

Dear Federal Communications Commission:

I am writing on behalf of a wonderful partner and friend to the National Weather Service (NWS), San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) in their request for radio frequencies for wind profilers. The forecasting of weather conditions that impact the spread wild fires in Southern California is the number one challenge for the weather forecast team here in San Diego. SDG&E realizes this threat and the impact to their power grid across their service area and the NWS San Diego County Warning area. Basic weather data is a critical component in effectively forecasting weather conditions that impact wild fire behavior. SDG&E has worked together as a Federal partner in these data collections efforts and they have added over 140 basic data collection locations across our mutual area of interest. These data have been critical in forecasting fire weather conditions multiple times in the last 3 plus years.

SDG&E wishes to add to this data collections effort by installing wind profilers that provide more than just basic weather data at the surface, but added critical wind data from multiple levels of the atmosphere. These data will add tremendous value to our numerical weather modeling efforts to better predict wind storms that can lead to dangerous fire weather conditions. These wind profilers are very much like the ones owned and operated by the multiple organizations within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), including the NWS in other locations across the country. The licenses are held by the Federal agency to operate in the frequency band (i.e., 448-450 MHz) through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Furthermore, NOAA is currently operating 449-MHz wind profilers in multiple locations along California's Coast through an agreement with California's Department of Water Resources.

SDG&E has time and again shown the NWS and Department of Energy their willingness to work with the Federal agencies as great partners working toward a common good and supporting the commerce of America. SDG&E's data have proved its value to the NWS multiple times and we look forward to having, no cost to the government access to the profiler data when they become available. Please support their request to use these frequencies for weather data collections.

If you have further questions or comments please contact me at 858-675-8716 or at my address above.

Sincerely,

Roger V. Pierce
Meteorologist in Charge
NOAA / NWS / San Diego

