MEMORANDUM

Date: August 23, 2013

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: Public Safety Interoperable Communication Project

The 2004 bond project for public safety interoperable communications and emergency operations is nearing completion with an expected operational date in January 2014.

Part of the new system involved modification renovations or installation of new communication towers throughout Pima County. One such tower was Tumamoc Hill. Due to the sensitivity of archeological and scientific research on Tumamoc Hill, the project was closely controlled and the post-development environment of Tumamoc Hill has been substantially improved when compared to the number and location of towers and supporting structures that had been on Tumamoc Hill prior to the project.

The attached report and photographs highlight the activities that have occurred regarding the demolition of two support structures of the City of Tucson and the County, as well as the dismantling and demolition of existing towers.

CHH/dph

Attachment

c: Paul Wilson, Bureau Chief, Sheriff’s Department
John Voorhees, Executive Director, Pima County Wireless Integrated Network
Linda Mayro, Director, Sustainability and Conservation
Lionel Bittner, Director, Information Technology
Jeff Nordensson, Director, Communications
Date: August 21, 2013

To: Mr. C. H. Huckleberry, County Administrator

From: Chief Paul Wilson, Project Sponsor

Re: Tumamoc Hill Tower Construction and Demolition

The Information Technology Department reports that site development work on Tumamoc Hill for the PCWIN project is nearing completion. Temporary fencing and equipment are to be removed from the site today. Two additional towers will be removed next week. Removal of the tower piers will be scheduled shortly thereafter. Tucson Electric Power will be on the hill this week to remove the power lines and two poles that are to be demolished as part of the PCWIN Communications Consolidation Plan. This will conclude the major construction activities on the hill.

The PCWIN Communications Consolidation Plan for Tumamoc Hill results in better use of a large communications shelter owned by the University of Arizona to benefit the PCWIN regional public safety communications system project. The project constructed one new 125 foot, three legged, self-supporting tower and removed three buildings and six other towers to mitigate the adverse effects on historic properties. Construction was limited to the existing footprint of previously disturbed areas at the summit. Archeological monitors, including a representative of the Tohono O'odham Nation monitored construction activities to ensure that project impacts stayed confined to specific previously disturbed areas. Construction activities were conducted with minimal impact to public access to Tumamoc Hill.

The PCWIN Communications Consolidation Plan for Tumamoc Hill project complied with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Parties consulting in the plan included the FCC, Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer, The University of Arizona, the National Park Service, and Pima County. Pima County also invited the Tohono O’odham Nation, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Hope Tribe, the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe, and Arizona State Museum to endorse a Memorandum of Agreement as concurring parties. The City of Tucson also partnered with the County to consolidate its communications facilities as part of the project. The President’s Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) recognized Pima County’s collaborative effort as an example of significant cases that are handled well under program alternatives established by ACHP.

Pima County’s Office of Sustainability and Conservation, the Information Technology Department, and our contractors, SWCA Environmental Consultants, International Towers Inc., and Patriot Towers Inc. are to be complimented for their efforts and outstanding achievement on this job. The communications facilities provide vital support for public safety communications.
Attachments

Cc: Ms. Linda Mayro, Pima County Cultural Resources Manager
Mr. Lionel Bittner, Pima County Chief Information Officer
Mr. Jeff Nordensson, Pima County Communications Office
PCWIN Project – On May 18, 2004 Pima County voters authorized the sale of government bonds for the purpose of establishing a regional radio system and constructing a new emergency communications and operations center. Upon completion, most first responder agencies will operate on a single regional public safety communications network that will provide interoperable communications for better coordination of public safety services. The regional radio system is under construction and end users will begin using the new radio system in December 2013.

PCWIN Tumamoc Hill Communications Consolidation Plan – Tumamoc Hill was selected as a communications site for the PCWIN project. A new 125 foot, three legged, self-supporting tower will be constructed. To mitigate the adverse effects on historic properties, the PCWIN Tumamoc Hill Communications Consolidation Plan was developed. It includes removal of three (3) buildings and six (6) towers as illustrated below. One building and four towers have already been removed from the site to make way for the new tower. The other structures will be removed after equipment is migrated from them to other facilities on the hill.
Hiking Access – The only section of Tumamoc Hill that will be affected by construction of the PCWIN tower will be the parking lot near the buildings and towers at the top of the hill. Access to the hill and passage on the road will not be restricted except during periods when heavy equipment is being used. Construction will occur during times the University of Arizona already restricts hiking between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. weekdays.

Archeological Monitoring – Construction will be limited to the existing footprint of previously disturbed areas at the summit of Tumamoc Hill. Subject to approval and concurrence by the University of Arizona, Arizona State Museum, and the State Historic Preservation Office, the PCWIN project will have archeological monitors, including representative(s) from the Tohono O’odham Nation, present during construction activities and during removal of structures. Monitoring will ensure that project impacts stay confined to specific previously disturbed areas and there will be no new impacts on cultural resources.

Historic Preservation – Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider historic preservation values when evaluating projects that may have an adverse affect on historic properties. Licensing of the spectrum and facility by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is a federal action that makes the project an undertaking subject to the provisions of Section 106 under the terms of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Review of Effects on Historic Properties for Certain Undertakings Approved by the FCC. Consulting parties included the FCC, Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer, the University of Arizona, the National Park Service, and Pima County. Pima County also invited the Tohono O’odham Nation, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Hopi Tribe, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and Arizona State Museum to endorse the Memorandum of Agreement as concurring parties. The President’s Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) recognized Pima County’s collaborative effort as an example of significant cases that are handled well under program alternatives established by the ACHP.

Construction Activities

- December 4, 2012  Site mobilization & light interior construction
- Late January 2013  Tower foundation installation, grounding, and erection
- Late February 2013 Building and equipment removal and migration
- June 2013  Construction complete

Contact Information – PCWIN Staff Office (520) 724-7200