

## Site Criteria Summary for South Sound 911 Public Safety Communications Center

The following criteria were used to review potential properties in Pierce County as viable locations for the South Sound 911 Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC). Sources include criteria provided by the IXP facilities study<sup>1</sup>, The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Public Safety Answering Point Site Selection Criteria document (NENA OID 56-506)<sup>2</sup> and preference for the site to be within the Tacoma-Metro area as provided by the Operations Board<sup>3</sup>.

**Size** – The site should be large enough to accommodate the main communication center building, for a separate structure housing an emergency generator, and fuel storage. It should also allow an area for parking employee cars, special vehicles (mobile EOC), and other vehicles and temporary structures required during a disaster (tents, shelters, helicopter landing zone, etc.). The lot should be large enough to allow a sufficient set-back from structures on adjacent property that might present a collapse, fire or other hazard. The IXP report identified the size requirement as 5.93 acres.

**Safety** – The site should be free from potential hazards, such as overhead power transmission lines, freeway overpasses, trees, flooding from creeks or streams, earthquake faults, brush fires, vehicle off-road accidents, underground pipelines, underground pipelines, etc.

**Access** – The site should be relatively centrally located. It should be adjacent to one or more major freeways/state highways. The roads leading to the center should be free of major potential obstructions in time of earthquake or other natural disaster, including over/underpasses, overhead power lines, and street light supports. The site should support access for the public, including convenient public transit options.

**Communications Infrastructure** – The site should have current or easily-installed access to communications links, including the telephone system, existing County and municipal radio links, microwave towers, etc. The site should not be obscured by hills or mountains so that future communications wireless links can be installed. Site consideration should be given to the ease of accessing multiple communication links to insure redundancy.

**Utilities infrastructure** – The center should have easily installed access to the existing public telephone system, water lines, power lines, and a sanitary sewer. The utilities should be arranged to enter the building in a place and method that will not create a hazard during a natural disaster or the failure of a utility supporting structure. Consideration should be given to providing dual (or more) paths for electrical and telephone links from multiple sub-stations or central offices.

**Parking** – The site should be large enough to accommodate everyday employee parking, storage of specialized communications units, EOC initiation and support, and staging of mutual aid support units during a multi-agency incident.

**Security** – allow for space considerations to enable appropriate setbacks for security purposes.

**Future Growth** – The site should be sized and arranged to allow future additions to the building, while keeping the commitment to economies of scale.

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<sup>1</sup> As summarized in Attachment A. Full info in pgs 61 – 65 of the *SS911 Facility Study Final Report*.

<sup>2</sup> As summarized in Attachment B. Full info at [https://www.dropbox.com/s/nmp671voh08ecc5/NENA\\_56-506\\_Public\\_Safety\\_Answering\\_Point\\_Site\\_Selection.pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/s/nmp671voh08ecc5/NENA_56-506_Public_Safety_Answering_Point_Site_Selection.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See the August 9, 2013 minutes of the Operations Board.

**IXP Facilities Report Summary on Industry Trends and Standards**

- convenient enough to access that it does not inhibit this public function
- as far removed from known (or reasonably predicted) natural and industrial hazards as practical. This would include steep slopes or landslide risk areas, and areas zoned in such a manner that high-risk industrial occupancies are allowed (whether present currently or not).
- above the known 100-year flood plain
- above any areas known to experience seasonal flooding that could limit access/use of the facilities
- out of any lahar inundation zones and reasonably accessible in the event of a flood/lahar event
- Reasonable distance from rail lines and pipelines.
- Ideally the selected parcel would be easy to provide redundant and alternatively routed utility services to the building, such as electrical power, telecommunications services and water.
- on highly reliable portions of the electrical service grid are preferable to locations isolated on single substations and electrical feeds.
- parcel without height restrictions due to aviation rules or zoning requirements; free of significant terrain obstacles limiting the ability to interconnect the facility via microwave.

**Summary from The NENA (National Emergency Number Association) Public Safety Answering Point Site Selection Criteria document (NENA OID 56-506)**

- adequate easement / right of way clearance and applicable distance requirements (e.g., public utility / telephone companies allowed to run lines on or under private property).
- Major Freeways: The closer a facility is to a major freeway or interchange system, the risk to the facility increases that it could be involved in some type of mishap on the freeway (either directly or indirectly)
- Man Made Disasters (Susceptibility): Relative distance of the facility from railroad crossings and/or tracks, major transportation arteries, gasoline stations and other potentially threatening infrastructure elements (e.g. oil wells, water storage tanks, oil refineries, gasoline storage tanks)
- Natural Disasters (Susceptibility): Relative distance of the facility from adverse geographic elements and other potentially threatening natural elements (e.g., waterfalls, rivers, dams)
- Underground Utility Source: The availability of an underground utility source to the facility (including water, electric, natural gas, fuel oil).