



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Executive Office

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 26, 2019

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steve Dunncliff, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Administration Center Operations in Public Safety Power Shut Off (PSPS)

Background: Existing Emergency Power at County Facilities

In any power outage event, emergency generators automatically begin producing power to support operations at multiple County facilities. These generators are tested and maintained on a regular schedule. Existing generators are in place, automatically providing emergency power at the following sites:

- 911/Dispatch
- Wireless communication towers
- County jail
- Juvenile hall
- Substations in Laytonville and Willits
- Fort Bragg Justice Center
- County Administration Center*
 - Main Server Room
 - EOC Policy Room
 - Various outlets throughout building
 - Data closets
- Emergency Operation Center (EOC)
- Planning & Building, Environmental Health/Fort Bragg
- Public Health, Yokayo Center
- Little River Airport
- Avila Center
- DOT Ukiah
- Courthouse Annex

**Exhibit A depicts the location of documented emergency power/outlets within the Admin Center.*

Additionally, portable generators owned by the County are available for deployment to provide emergency power at DOT road yards, the County fuel pumps, etc.

Admin Center Functionality through a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

The County Administration Center has an existing generator that functions automatically in the event of a power outage. The generator provides power to the Main Server Room, the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Policy Room, security systems, emergency lighting throughout the building, and 1-3 power outlets in Planning & Building/Environmental Health, County Counsel, and Human Resources. The building remains secure, with critical technology infrastructure operable, in the event of a power outage.

Historically, maintenance of these core systems at the Administration Center has been adequate during unscheduled and short-term power outages. In a new environment, however, with intentional power outages of a longer duration, the County's ability to provide basic services to the public in a blackout should be reviewed and potentially bolstered.

Today, there is not an efficient way to deploy portable generators that will supplement the emergency power available at the Administration Center. Facilities & Fleet recommends installation of electrical intersects at the southeast entrance to the building (by the Auditor's Office) which would allow County staff to quickly deploy and connect portable generators for additional operating power in an extended power outage event. While these intersects would not power the HVAC equipment, they would allow the Treasurer-Tax Collector, Auditor-Controller, Assessor/Clerk/Recorder, Board Chambers, and the Executive Office to function normally through an extended blackout. The generator deployment location and the powered areas are depicted in Exhibit B. The total cost of these intersects is estimated at \$50,000; the infrastructure would continue to provide operating flexibility into the future. It is not likely that these intersects will be installed and available for the current PSPS/fire season.

A plan is available to ensure the Administration Center has supplemental power during any PSPS events that take place this year. Five rental generators can be staged around the Administration Center for the remainder of this fire season. Upon notification to the County of a PSPS, heavy cabling would be deployed through doorways, hallways and even windows for connection by a licensed electrician to electrical panels inside the building. Cabling would be installed along the floor in areas accessible to staff and the public, and secured to minimize trip hazards. Access to the sub panels would be restricted for the duration of the connection. Maintaining security within the building after hours would require County staff to disconnect cabling from the generators every evening during a PSPS event so the building can be locked. Under this plan, generator deployment locations, cabling routes, and restricted areas within the Administration Center are depicted in Exhibit C.

Long Term

The County has backup power in place to serve core and emergency functions. However, the available power was intended to assist during unplanned power outages of the shortest possible duration. We have entered a new era, where planned, extended power outages may be experienced several times a year due to the threat of an emergency based on regional weather conditions. In this new environment, consideration should be given to the County's ability to provide core services to the public without access to power. Longer term preparations are recommended to begin with the County's Administration Center, as the operational base for

foundational County services. An electrical engineer is available to provide an assessment that will help determine the type, size, and location of additional generators that would permanently augment the backup power available at the Admin Center. Separate scenarios will be requested, to understand the equipment and cost needed to fully power the Admin Center with HVAC and without. Consideration should also be given to the possibility of a hybrid system, consisting of photovoltaic panels, battery backup, and smaller generators that could augment power as needed or charge batteries.

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Existing Emergency Power within the Administration Center

Exhibit B: Additional Emergency Power with Intersect Infrastructure

Exhibit C: Additional Emergency Power with Cabling Deployment