

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**BILL ELFO**  
SHERIFF



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
311 Grand Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
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**MEMO**

**To:** Whatcom County Council

**From:** Sheriff Bill Elfo, Director, Division of Emergency Management  
John Gargett, Deputy Director, Division of Emergency Management  
Robert Greene, Communications Manager, Division of Emergency Management

**Subject:** AB2020-253 - Resolution authorizing Whatcom County to enter into a twenty-year communication tower lease agreement with Verizon Wireless for an existing tower site located at the Lookout Mountain Forest Reserve

**Date:** July 23, 2020

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Our office has reviewed the Verizon Wireless tower lease agreement for the site located in the Lookout Mountain Forest Reserve. We do not see any issues with this existing tower site or lease agreement.

In reviewing the lease, Section 7 does address Interference and Verizon Wireless' responsibility not to interfere with any other towers in the area, including the new PI Tower being constructed for Skagit County which Whatcom County Council approved (AB2020-254). The Verizon tower will use 880 MHz to 2.2 GHz. The PI Tower Law Enforcement's frequencies will be using 450 MHz and 150MHz with Fire using 150MHz (for both Whatcom and Skagit County). This poses no threat of interference in the spectrum.

We contacted Skagit County Communications and received their confirmation that the Verizon Tower will not present any problems for their tower, nor should it present any problems for the Whatcom County equipment planned for installation on the PI Tower.

There is no anticipation, engineering, or design that suggests the footprint of the Verizon Tower, or space on the tower, is needed for current or future expansion of the Whatcom County Integrated Public Safety Radio System.

Therefore, it is our opinion that no issues will arise with public safety radio communications from the approval of this lease.

We are available for any questions Council may have.

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