



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

September 19, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

SKYWARN is a National Weather Service (NWS) program that consists of trained weather spotters who provide reports of severe and hazardous weather to help meteorologists make live-saving warning decisions. SKYWARN members utilize various methods of communication to relay information to the NWS including amateur radio. Amateur radio is a particularly important mode of information conveyance since it is known to remain operational during times of emergencies or disasters even when other forms of communication may not be functional. NWS San Diego office is responsible for warning the public of hazardous weather across Riverside County.

<https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/>

Members of Riverside County SKYWARN rely upon the Mountain Radio Network amateur radio communications system that is operated and maintained by the Mile High Radio Club in Idyllwild. This system spans a wide geographic area and permits weather spotters to communicate with one another from the Inland Empire valleys, to the San Jacinto Mountains, and to the Coachella Valley. Having a system with such expansive coverage allows SKYWARN members to effectively exchange vital information about weather related hazards with one another, other licensed amateur radio operators, and NWS staff.

The Mile High Radio Club recently lost the use of a radio repeater site in Pine Cove that served the valleys to the west and a significant portion of the mountains. Without amateur radio communication to cover these populated and well-traveled areas of Riverside County the ability of SKYWARN members to exchange information is severely compromised. We seek your help in providing any assistance that you may be able to offer with regard to identifying and making available any space that will allow the restoration of this communications system to its original capabilities and characteristics.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Alex Tardy
Acting Meteorologist in Charge/
Warning Coordination Meteorologist

