

KVCR UHF-to-VHF TRANSITION

SCOPE

KVCR will be transitioning from ultra-high frequency (UHF) channel 24 to very-high frequency (VHF) channel 5. The scope includes replacing the existing transmitter and antenna solutions systems located at 10550 Box Springs Mountain Rd., Moreno Valley, CA 92324. District Facilities Planning & Construction and KVCR have formed a collaborative and expert team and are working towards the successful delivery of this project.

SCHEDULE

The project has three major milestones. The District has successfully fulfilled the first one.

1. File FCC construction permit by July 12, 2017. ✓
2. Complete construction by December 1, 2018 and start testing.
3. KVCR goes live by April 12, 2019.

PROCUREMENT

We issued a request for qualification and proposal for the UHF to VHF transition package. Two vendors were prequalified and bid proposals were successfully received on September 21, 2017. GatesAir Inc. for the transmitter solution system and Jampro Inc. for the antenna solution system are the responsive and responsible bidders. Both contracts will be submitted before the Board of Trustees for approval on October 12, 2017.

In addition, it was uncovered that the existing tower does not comply with today's structural conservative codes. After further review and feasibility study, it is important that the District construct new tower that is structurally sound and supports the new antenna. A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) permit has been reviewed and received a contingent approval. Further studies are concluded for new tower construction.

CHALLENGES

Constructing a new 310-foot structural steel broadcasting tower on top of the hill requires tremendous design and construction reviews by federal, state and local jurisdictions. The team is in the process of working toward filing the permit for constructing the new tower. In addition, it is imperative to start the design of the new tower to enable design of the antenna attachment to the new tower.

COST

It is hard to predict the total cost for the transitioning project at this time due to the unique scope of services, and the schedule restraints as many private and public broadcasting agencies are transitioning and tied to the same schedule. The total anticipated cost ranges from \$1.5 to \$2 million, depending on the proposals received and whether or not SBCCD decides to construct a new tower or retrofit the existing one.

THINGS TO FOLLOW

- Receive final FAA approval for new tower, potentially amending the lease agreement with the property owner at Marino Valley.
- Develop a plan and schedule to procure a design/build entity for the new tower and obtain all applicable permits.