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Testimony

City of Grand Terrace Council Meeting
February 12, 2008

RE: An Ordinance of the City of Grand Terrace, California, Amending Title 18, the Grand Terrace Zoning Code by Adding Chapter 18.72, the Amateur (HAM) Radio Antenna Ordinance (Zoning Amendment No. 06-02)

There are only two schools of thought when predicting a devastating earthquake for this region -

(1) it is coming, or (2) it is overdue.

A recent study tells us that the San Andreas Fault is likely much more destructive than current models predict.

In times of emergency, amateur radio operators are self-contained, self-powered communications stations. Even when the phone lines and cell phone systems (including Nextel) are overloaded or inoperable, the Internet is not available, and the fax machine is down - amateur radio operators are able to coordinate communications for both the citizens and for governmental agencies.

Families in Grand Terrace already benefit from ham radio operations...

- The **Skywarn** program provides critical ground observations to the National Weather Service.
- The **National Traffic Service** has provided long distance emergency communication and free radiograms for families for decades.
- The **American Red Cross** uses amateur radio to provide emergency communications in a disaster. So do the **Salvation Army**, **FEMA**, and **RACES**.

Preparing Grand Terrace for a regional emergency is your responsibility. You should be asking each of your citizens to develop the abilities to help themselves and their community in a disaster.

Instead of amending zoning codes to the detriment of amateur radio, the City of Grand Terrace should be educating its citizens as to the effectiveness and viability of amateur radio, embracing these unpaid volunteers in disaster, and - as thousands of municipalities, counties, states, and the national government have done - prominently incorporate amateur radio in your city's disaster plan.

SOURCES and NOTES

Science Daily Magazine

San Andreas Fault Likely Much More Destructive Than Current Models Predict

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/08/070819085711.htm>

SKYWARN National Web site

<http://www.skywarn.org/>

NTS - National Traffic Service

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nts-mpg/>

American Red Cross - scores of amateur radio citations

<http://www.redcross.org>

Salvation Army

<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org>

FEMA and **RACES**

<http://www.fema.gov/>

<http://www.usraces.org/>

ARES - The American Radio Relay League

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1-ch1.html>

<http://www.emergency-radio.org>

CitizenCorps - Department of Homeland Security

<http://www.citizencorps.gov/>

NCS - National Communications System

<http://www.ncs.gov/>

APCO - Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials

<http://www.apcointl.org/>