SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Lori Maughan	Chair
Jamie Harvey	Vice-Chair
Silvia Stubbs	Commissioner
Mack McDonald	Administrator

January 29, 2025

Re: Letter of Support - Dead Horse Point Public Safety Radio Site

To Whom It May Concern:

The San Juan County Board of Commissioners unanimously supports the development of a public safety radio communications site at the Dead Horse Point State Park Visitor Center. This project has received strong and consistent support from local, County, and State stakeholders and is recognized as a critical life-safety and emergency essential infrastructure needed for Southeastern Utah.

Current radio coverage in the Canyon Lands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park area is extremely limited and unreliable. First responders frequently struggle to communicate with dispatch during emergencies, creating unnecessary risk to responders, residents, and the millions of visitors who recreate in this region. Given that this area supports some of the busiest Search and Rescue operations in the state, reliable communications are essential.

The Dead Horse Point Visitor Center is an ideal location for this project. It is a state-owned facility with existing commercial power, backup generation, established backhaul connectivity, and infrastructure that can support discreet antenna installation. Leveraging this site avoids the environmental and permitting challenges associated with open area sites on these sensitive Park Service lands and allows for faster, more cost-effective implementation.

The Commission supports development of a site capable of supporting a trunked P25 system with space for local VHF resources, significantly improving coverage, interoperability, and responder safety for our County, State, and federal agencies operating in the region.

Support for this proposal has been expressed by our local public safety and leaders, including:
- **Rep. Logan Monson,** Utah House of Representatives, District 69
- **Sheriff Lacy,** San Juan County Sheriff's Office
- **Sheriff Jamison Wiggins,** Grand County Sheriff's Office
- **Andy Smith,** Director, Grand County EMS
- **James Wells,** Manager, Dead Horse Point State Park
- **Scott Saunders,** Utah Department of Public Safety Interoperability Coordinator
- **Multiple local first responders** representing Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, and Search & Rescue

We respectfully request that this project be recognized as a priority for public safety communications and considered this for funding and advancement through appropriate channels, including the Utah Communications Authority, Department of Technology Services/ GovOps, Department of Public Safety, and the Utah State Legislature. Even initial funding to formally scope and develop the project would be a meaningful step toward implementation. Improving communications in this area is a direct investment in public safety and in the protection of life.

The Commission fully supports this effort and urges its timely consideration.

Sincerely

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Lori Maughan, Commission Chair

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