



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 6, 2025

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: Consideration and Approval of a Letter of Support for a Proposed Communications Tower on Black Ridge

RECOMMENDATION: Consider, approve and sign the letter of support

SUMMARY

BLM has received and is analyzing an application for a right-of-way for a 250-foot-tall communications tower and small building on Black Ridge approximately 10 miles northwest of LaSal community. The location is near the existing communications facility approximately one mile east of US 191. The proposed tower would be of lattice construction with a 30 foot square base along with required safety lighting on the tower. The stated purpose and need for the facility is to improve voice and data service along highways US191 and Utah 46. The 250 foot tower height is requested to maximize communication coverage to US191 particularly where the highway drops into Kane Springs Canyon where there is presently little to no coverage. It is expected the increased coverage would enhance search and rescue, emergency services and law enforcement efforts as well as improve communications for highway and back-country travelers as well as the residents of LaSal. BLM is also analyzing a 150 foot tower due to visual resource concerns although communications coverage would be reduced with a shorter tower.

HISTORY/PAST ACTION

A previous proposal for a communications tower at the same location was not approved after an appeal stated adverse impacts to visual resources.

FISCAL IMPACT

Unknown