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## **ANNEX A – Part 3**

# AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PLAN

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency  
Service (RACES)

An Emergency Communications  
Reserve



## COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

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# AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PLAN

## Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) An Emergency Communications Reserve

### Introduction

The Auxiliary Communications Service provides the Livermore-Pleasanton Operational Area with an emergency communications reserve based on a variety of volunteer skills for emergency tactical, administrative and logistical communications between the Cities and their agencies, and between the Cities and county government.

The Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) coordinates Amateur Radio resources or equivalent government resources; and promotes the effective management and utilization of the Amateur Radio operators and other FCC licensees in support of civil defense and disaster response and recovery. While other FCC licensees may become a part of the ACS, this Plan is specifically directed to the use of Amateur Radio operators under the provisions of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).

The resources of this Service are an essential staff resource intended to augment agency and public safety communications. The number of participants is not limited and will be based on the specific need and the availability of responders. A declaration of an emergency is not required to mobilize the RACES resources.

The Cities support an active involvement of RACES participants in the day-to-day affairs of the local emergency management agencies so that in times of need the RACES participants are cognizant with on-going procedures and personnel, and are capable of integrating with all systems. As part of its on-going activity, RACES Amateur Radio operators may conduct on-the-air activities in order to test, train, and keep in peak readiness the emergency operations communications equipment.

### Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to provide authority for the participation of Amateur Radio operators in providing essential communications during periods of national, state or local emergency. RACES operations are carried out in accordance with FCC Rules and Regulations. The Amateur Radio operators within the Tri-Valley area are considered to be a single regional resource and may be assigned to any appropriate jurisdiction within the area.



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## Sections

### Area Covered

The location of the Livermore-Pleasanton Operational Area is shown on a State of California map and Alameda County map (Part 3.1 and 3.2). Alameda County has a population of approximately 1.5 million (2000 census) and an area of 737.5 square miles. The Livermore-Pleasanton operational area has a population of approximately 150,000 and an area of 50 square miles.

### Threat

The population in this area faces a variety of threats both natural and man-made, to which they must be prepared to respond, e.g., earthquakes, floods, hazardous material spills, energy emergencies. A complex geographic area of alluvial plains, canyons and hills provides topographic extremes. Demographic factors as well as climate and geological faults present a range of hazards to be considered by emergency services workers - both professional and volunteer. Any of the threats could occasion the activation of qualified emergency communication needs to assist, supplement or replace the capabilities existing in the City.

### Jurisdictions Covered

The jurisdictions covered by this plan and the emergency services coordinator(s) are responsible for the development of plans relating to emergency activities.

- This plan will serve to qualify the Livermore-Pleasanton Operational Area for matching funds under the Federal Contributions Program.

### Radio Officer and Organization

The organization for the implementation and administration of the RACES resources are based on the key role of the RACES Radio Officer (Part 3.3). The RACES Radio Officer is usually the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator for the respective city. The Emergency Services Coordinator(s) may appoint a RACES Radio Officer(s) at any time and this appointment will take precedence.

### Participants

Amateur Radio operators participating under this Plan shall be registered as Disaster Service Workers in the COMMUNICATIONS class in accordance with Section 3100 (et seq.) of the California Government Code.

The Livermore-Pleasanton Operational Area utilizes two categories of Amateur Radio volunteers:

- **RACES Radio Operators.** This category is composed of Amateur Radio operators who have indicated their willingness to participate by completing the California Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program form for the Communications Classification, Auxiliary Communications Service Specialty and completing the Loyalty Oath/Affirmation as required by State law. Enrollment shall include satisfactory completion of fingerprinting requirements established by the cities and agencies for special access. These operators may carry out any actions or duties consistent with FCC and RACES rules and



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regulations. This category of participant shall be issued an identification card by Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

- **RACES EOC Responders.** This category is composed of RACES Radio Operators who are approved to respond to Emergency Operation Centers (EOC), special or restricted city facilities, and special or restricted agency locations (e.g., hospital, school, etc.). In addition to the requirements for the RACES Radio Operators, additional training, operational and performance requirements may be established for this category of responders. This category of participant shall be issued an identification card by Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

### Resources

RACES resources are considered a facility that is available to all government services/agencies, and are not assigned exclusively to any one service/agency. RACES frequencies/channels are not assigned exclusively to any one service/agency. The RACES Radio Officer and/or RACES EOC Responders coordinate resources while consulting with the Emergency Manager/Incident Commander. It is the intent of this Plan to ensure the needs of the Livermore-Pleasanton Operational Area from the available RACES resources.

### Networks

Alameda County Emergency Service (ACES) operates four network levels that will be used by RACES under the provision of this Plan. The network levels are identified as:

- **LEVEL 1** networks provide Direction and Control communications between the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) Region II EOC and the Operational Area EOC(s) within Region II.
- **LEVEL 2** networks provide Direction and Control communications between the Operational Area EOC(s) and the jurisdictions within the Operational Area, and between Alameda County and the Emergency Alert System (formerly Emergency Broadcast System) stations in the Operational Area.
- **LEVEL 3** networks provide communications between the Operational Area EOC(s) and deployed mobile and other authorized units within the Operational Area.
- **LEVEL 4** networks provide communications between the jurisdictional EOC(s) and deployed mobile and other authorized units under the direction of the City(s).

### Identifiers

Operators may use tactical station identifiers in conjunction with the FCC call signs.



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### **Frequency Coordination**

The RACES Radio Officer(s) will establish the frequencies used within the Operational Area. All frequencies will be coordinated with the State OES Regional Communications Coordinator. Interference problems from outside sources will be referred to the State OES Regional Office for resolution. In an emergency, the RACES EOC Responder(s) may establish frequencies in coordination with the Alameda County Sheriff's Communication Team and/or the California OES Regional Communications Coordinator.

In the event of an emergency that necessitates invoking the President's war emergency powers, RACES will be governed by paragraph 97.407 (b) of the FCC Rules and Regulations, 47 CFR. Operations will be restricted to frequencies assigned and coordinated by the California OES.

### **Station Locations**

Locations of EOC stations and other fixed stations operated under this Plan may be established by the Disaster Preparedness Manager, the Emergency Manager or the Incident Commander. In an emergency, RACES Radio Officer(s) may establish temporary stations for RACES Responder(s) at any time.

### **Equipment Resources**

There are several hundred fixed, portable and mobile stations that may be operated under the provisions of this Plan. The majority of the equipment is owned, maintained and operated by the individual Amateur Radio operators. The RACES Radio Operator(s) will control, maintain and inventory equipment owned or provided by the City.

### **Mutual Aid**

This Service is a COMMUNICATION resource covered by the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement. RACES resources may be requested by, and supplied to other jurisdictions in accordance with established inter-governmental mutual aid procedures:

- *Livermore-Pleasanton Operational Area to/from the OES Region.* That Region to the State Coordinating Center (SCC) will direct requests for mutual aid exceeding OES Regional capabilities. Should communication be broken with the SCC, the request will be directed to an adjacent OES Region with notification to the SCC as soon as conditions permit.
- *Livermore-Pleasanton Operational Area to/from contiguous jurisdictions.*
- *Livermore-Pleasanton Operational Area to/from the City of Dublin or adjacent cities with which it has an agreement.*



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### **Review**

This plan shall be reviewed for completeness, currency, and accuracy not later than every two years after the latest approval date. Revisions and corrections will be issued to the Distribution List when approved.

### **Mobilization**

#### ***Usage***

This service is an essential staff resource intended to augment agency and public safety communications. Program participants may be used in support of agency and public safety communications requirements at any time. A declaration of an emergency is not required to mobilize RACES resources. However, the use of FCC Amateur Radio Service frequencies in RACES operations is limited to training and emergency communications as set out in paragraphs 97.401-97.407, FCC Rules and Regulations, 47 CFR.

#### ***Authority***

The authority to mobilize and use this service and any of its personnel rests with the County Emergency Services Coordinator and staff, the City of Livermore's emergency staff, or the City of Pleasanton's emergency staff.

#### ***Requests***

Requests for RACES support from any agency shall be directed to the Disaster Preparedness Manager, Emergency Manager or Incident Commander.

#### ***Callout***

The RACES Radio Officer for each City will maintain a current roster and establish a callout procedure.

#### ***Response***

RACES Radio Operators and RACES EOC Responders are unpaid volunteers, however once they have been notified and have accepted an assignment, they are expected to respond to their assigned location as quickly as possible with proper regard for safety and public laws.

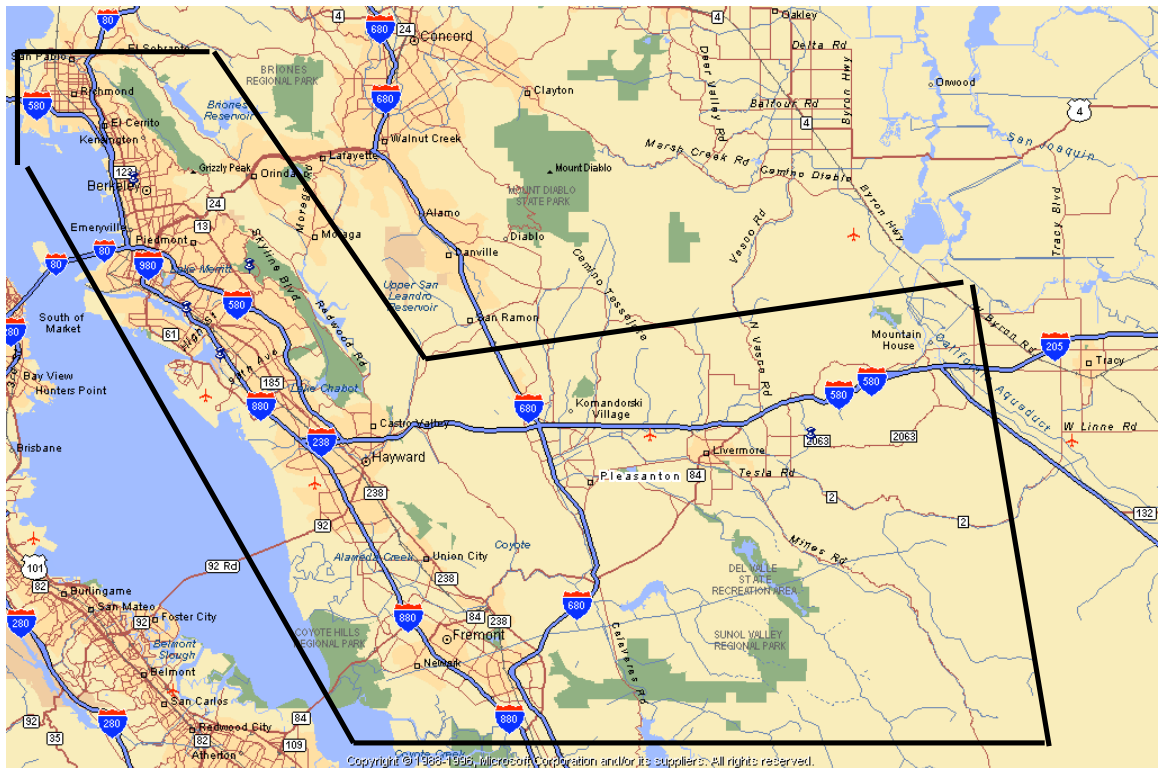
#### ***Direction***

**RACES Radio Operators** acting under this Plan are expected to take their direction from the RACES Radio Officer(s), the RACES EOC Responder(s), or the Incident Commander.

**RACES EOC Responder(s)** are expected to take their direction from the RACES Radio Officer(s), the Disaster Preparedness Manager, the Emergency Manager, or the Incident Commander.

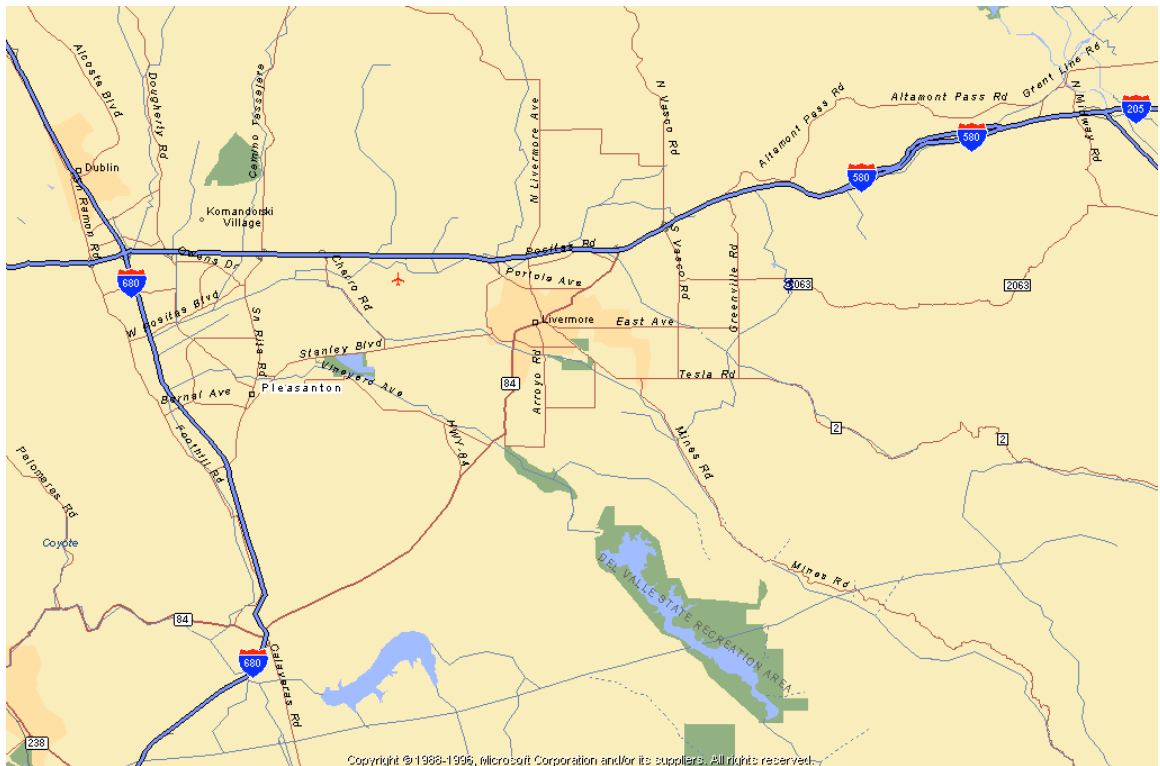
## Part 3.1 – Operational Area, Alameda County

The black line in the figure below shows the approximate boundary for Alameda County. The presence of the Sunol and Hayward Ridges causes a separation in the populated regions within the county. The western portion of the county contains the larger population centers of Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, Hayward, Castro Valley, Fremont, Union City, and Newark. Eastern Alameda County has Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol as the population centers.



## Part 3.2 – Operational Area, Livermore-Pleasanton

This RACES Plan covers the greater metropolitan areas of the Cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, including the surrounding unincorporated areas of Alameda County. Although the City of Dublin is a separate operational area for emergency response, the amateur radio operators in the tri-valley area act as a single resource to the community. RACES personnel working or living in the tri-valley area may be a part of this Plan.





## Part 3.3 – RACES Organization

