



PUGET SOUND EMERGENCY RADIO NETWORK



King County

PSERN Project  
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## **West Seattle Receives Replacement Emergency Radio Communications Tower Site is part of improving E-911 response countywide**

The Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) Project is upgrading and expanding the current, aging King County Emergency Radio Communications System (KCERCS). A West Seattle radio tower, located on land owned by the City of Seattle, is part of that. It's located on an existing KCERCS site and the PSERN Project is replacing the tower as part of a critical emergency radio system upgrade.

PSERN will primarily be used by law enforcement, fire fighters and other emergency personnel to communicate with each other during E-911 activities – from small incident responses to major emergencies like earthquakes. The PSERN system is comprised of 61 radio towers engineered to provide the best coverage available using direct, line-of-sight technology between towers to communicate with each other, in combination with other technologies. This is **not** a 5G cellular site; the technologies are different.

The tower will be ready to respond to emergencies after construction and testing is complete. Construction of the new PSERN tower and equipment installation will take another six to nine months to complete. The old tower will then be torn down.

The project began its work on the West Seattle tower location in late summer 2019 and has followed local jurisdiction permitting requirements, including a land use sign on site. Additionally, the project chose to pay an additional cost to paint the tower a color allowing it to better blend in with its surroundings.

Construction and materials costs for the PSERN West Seattle tower equipment are approximately \$800,000, paid for out of the PSERN Project.

### **Other FAQs:**

- PSERN was approved by King County voters in April 2015.
- PSERN is an 800 MHz digital network.
- The system will cover all populated portions of King County, along with the three major highways in the eastern part of the county.

- It is a large, complex program comprised of more than 80 subprojects. That includes the 61 radio sites based around the county in a wide variety of terrain, 19 dispatch centers, deployment of up to 19,000 radios, and other system components.
- PSERN Project Partners/Owners:
  1. Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA)
  2. King County – *lead agency*
  3. City of Seattle
  4. Valley Communications Center
- The system vendor is Motorola.
- When the project is complete, the system and all project assets will be operated by a new municipal nonprofit corporation, the PSERN Operator.