

Bertha Peak Variance Request

- Tuesday, 2/6/2024 - Lost Commercial Power at 6:16 AM. Generator had 0 hours of runtime for this calendar year at this time.
- Friday, 2/9/2024 – San Bernardino County – Fleet Management’s Generator Team attempted to visit Bertha Peak; however, conditions were unsafe.
- Tuesday, 2/13/24 – A contractor was hired to assess and fix any damage. The contractor was able to see where the damage occurred and prepared to fix it the next day.
- Tuesday, 2/13/24 – County of San Bernardino – Fleet Management started preparing Petition for Variance for the emergency generator and turned in the Petition for Variance.
- Wednesday, 2/14/24 – Emergency Generator hit 200 hours at approximately 2:45 pm.
- Wednesday, 2/24/24 – Contractor fixed the downed power lines. Power was restored to the area and the emergency generator was turned off.

Good Cause

- The current hours on the generator for 2024 are 202.4 hr. As of 2/14/24, the emergency generator at Bertha Peak has reached 200 hours.
- The County of San Bernardino – Fleet Management has done their due diligence by applying for the variance before the emergency generator went over the 200 emergency hours.
- The circumstance for this variance is that weather conditions caused a downed power line. This power line connects the Bear Valley Electric meter to the 800 MHz Radio Tower. Since no power was being supplied to the 800 MHz Radio Tower, the emergency generator was running to supply the power.
- The benefit of keeping the emergency generator operational far outweighs shutting the emergency generator down due to air contaminants. Keeping the emergency generator operational means first responders will receive all communication for any emergencies that occur on the mountain. The emergency generator is also a far distance from any residential or business areas.
- This emergency generator will only run during an emergency when power supply is cut or for 1 hour a month during maintenance. With these efforts, the County of San Bernardino – Fleet Management will only run this emergency generator for these reasons to reduce emissions as much as possible.
- If the Petition for Variance were not granted, first responders would lose critical communication on the mountain and the 800 MHz communication repeater loop would be down for all County of San Bernardino communication.
- San Bernardino County – Fleet Management will monitor this generator through a GPS unit to keep watch of emissions levels.