

**STINSON BEACH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
POST OFFICE BOX 127
STINSON BEACH, CALIFORNIA 94970**

Marin Emergency Radio Authority
371 Bel Marin Keys Blvd.,ste. 100
Novato, CA 94949
April 29, 2009

Dear Board Members,

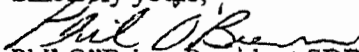
The purpose of this letter is to address the very serious problem of MERA radio reception along Highway One between Stinson Beach and Muir Beach. When responding south past Steep Ravine there is a dead zone for approximately five miles. Not only can we not communicate with Woodacre, we cannot communicate with other Stinson Beach units, Muir Beach Fire Department, Marin County Sheriff, Marin County Fire units or other mutual aid responding agencies. This lack of communication ability not only endangers the lives of accident victims but also the safety of law enforcement or fire personnel.

The nature of West Marin's terrain is a challenge to radio reception. The National Park Service has an antenna on the VA Hospital in San Francisco. This site should be considered if a prompt contract cannot be reached with San Francisco at the Sutro Tower site.

The Stinson Beach Fire Department joined MERA with the promise and understanding that we would have viable emergency communications within the boundaries of our response area.

* This promise has not been kept. As this letter points out, this is not the case and we urge MERA to take whatever steps are necessary to honor their contractual obligations to our District.

Sincerely yours,


Phil O'Brien, President SBFPD

Cc:

Marin County Board of Supervisors
District 1-Susan L. Adams
District 2-Harold C. Brown Jr.
District 3-Charles McGlashan
District 4-Steve Kinsey
District 5-Judy Arnold.
Marin County Fire Department
Marin County Firefighter's Association
Marin County Sheriff's Association
Marin County Sheriff's Department
Muir Beach Fire Department
Southern Marin Fire Department