

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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ALL AREA CODES ARE 415

March 14, 2012

MERA Executive Committee  
95 Rowland Way  
Novato, CA 94945

Re: Critical Marin County Jail Radio Amplifier Replacement

Dear Directors,

On September 14, 2011 the Executive Committee approved replacement of MERA's critical amplifier system at County Jail at an estimated cost of \$50,000. This project addressed intermittent coverage issues that were identified within the confines of the Jail.

The project was implemented during October and November 2011 and is now working well. The budget estimate provided to MERA assumed a straightforward installation of the new amplifier, with about 17 hours of labor by County staff. Unfortunately, the installation met many unexpected challenges. During testing, several issues arose that required coordination with the manufacturer, including the preselector was off frequency, an amp failure, replacing a bad module. In addition, insuring continuous communication for all jail personnel during the changeover took more coordination time that estimated.

Final costs are for the project are:

Equipment Costs - \$47,837.49  
Comm. Division Labor - \$17,215

It is recommended that MERA approve the replacement of the MERA radio amplifier system, for the total amount of \$65,052.49.

Very truly yours,

  
Craig Tackabery  
MERA Operations Officer