

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

People serving people.

Robert Beaumont  
DIRECTOR

May 16, 2012

MERA Board of Directors  
95 Rowland Way  
Novato, CA 94945

Administration  
PO Box 4186  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4186  
415 473 6528 T  
415 473 3799 F  
415 473 3232 TTY  
CRS Dial 711  
www.marincounty.org/pw

Re: Next Generation System Feasibility Study

Dear Directors,

Accounting

MERA's existing 14 year old 400 MHz T-Band system has limited capacity and limited coverage. The system was designed in 1998 to accommodate 1,580 mobile and portable radios. Today it serves about 2,875 radios, which is far above the project total that was originally anticipated. In addition, the existing computer and software systems have a limited life and over time elements are no longer supported by their manufacturers.

Airport

The Finance Committee has requested preparation of a Feasibility Study and project cash flow for a new system. A draft of the Feasibility Study will be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting. A number of policy issues will be discussed including:

Building Maintenance

- The number of radios to purchase, the distribution formula, and the cost policy for additional radios
- Property based revenue measures, including the amount per parcel and the number of years
- A competitive grant procurement strategy, including when to invest MERA resources in grant writing and procurement
- Options to reduce the time to implement the new system, such as funding work earlier for the proposed three new sites. (Note that work on two of the sites is underway, and the subject of separate staff reports. Work has not commenced on a new North County site).

Capital Projects

**Expenditures:**

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)

MERA has previously authorized \$50,000 expenditure towards producing a 700MHz System Next Generation Feasibility Study.

Communications Maintenance

**Contracts**

At this time there are no contracts executed for consultants

County Garage

**Mera Operations - Capital Projects – Feasibility Study: Invoiced to MERA**

Disability Access

February 15, 2012	\$9,719.41 Paid
April 12, 2012	\$3,456.55 Unpaid

Engineering & Survey

Flood Control & Water Resources

Land Development

Purchasing

Real Estate

Reprographic Services

Road Maintenance

Stormwater Program

Transportation & Traffic Operations

Waste Management

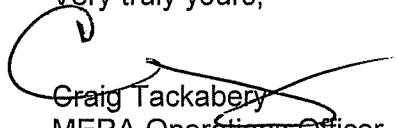
**Forecast**

MERA Operations -

Average DPW expends 5.2 hours for the Operations Director and 13.6 hours for the Communications Services Manager toward this project.

It is recommended that MERA approve the \$3,456.55 expenditure included in the April 12, 2012 invoice, authorize additional expenses for the balance of this fiscal year through June 30, 2012, and authorize additional expenses during the three year contract period, not to exceed \$50,000 for all expenses without prior authorization from MERA.

Very truly yours,



Craig Tackabery  
MERA Operations Officer