

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 12, 2012
TO: MERA Executive Board
FROM: Maureen Cassingham, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM **D-1**: **REQUEST FOR DIRECTION FROM
PRESIDENT REVERE RE: GOVERNING BOARD
MEMBER NASO MERA COVERAGE CONCERNS**

Recommended Action: Provide direction regarding Governing Board Member Naso's coverage concerns.

Background: At the May 16, 2012 Board Meeting, Board Member Naso, Kentfield Fire Protection District, asked what actions could be taken to address coverage issues along the Coast, Tiburon and Belvedere. He requested additional antenna sites or other solutions to eliminate dead spots. He also said that the satellite phone issued by DPW to address Stinson coverage issues is not working. After some discussion, President Revere said he would gather background information for Naso on what has been done by MERA to-date regarding these coverage issues.

Research going back to 2009 was undertaken and provided to President Revere to share with Member Naso. This information included numerous citations of when and what was reported on to the Executive Committee and Board regarding Stinson, et al., coverage issues and possible solutions. Also included was Motorola original system design information noting the standard of 97% portable radio coverage in urban areas and 95% mobile radio coverage in rural areas. A DPW report dated May 12, 2010, was also identified that stated the Stinson problem was temporarily resolved with the satellite phone pending ongoing research of other solutions.

Member Naso subsequently sent a follow-up letter to President Revere, dated June 14, 2012, requesting a progress report on efforts to "find temporary antenna repeater relief for the Tiburon Fire and Police Departments, as well as the Town of Belvedere Police and Stinson Beach Fire". In response, President Revere asked for this matter to be agendized for the Executive Board as soon as it was constituted and could be convened.

AGENDA ITEM D-1: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION FROM PRESIDENT REVERE

September 12, 2012

Page 2

Chief Nickel, in President Revere's absence, will be attending today's meeting to provide further input.

Any direction provided by the Executive Board on this matter should include a request for estimates of additional DPW staff time, if required, and any other related costs and timeline to fix the problems.