

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

c/o Novato Fire Protection District
95 Rowland Way, Novato, CA 94945
PHONE: (415) 878-2690 FAX: (415) 878-2660

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 14, 2014
TO: MERA Governing Board
FROM: Maureen Cassingham, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM **E-2**: PROPOSED FY14-15 MERA OPERATING BUDGET AND ZERO-RATE FEE SCHEDULE FOR NON-MEMBER USERS

Recommended Action: Upon recommendation of the Executive Board, approve:

- 1) the Proposed MERA FY 2014-15 Operating Budget; and,
- 2) a Zero-Rate Fee Schedule for Non-Member Users, subject to further review of System usage by the Executive Board Subcommittee and Staff.

Background: Total Proposed Operating Budget for FY14-15 is \$1,707,654 which represents a 3.4% increase over prior year's budget. This budget is presented assuming Governing Board approval of the proposed DPW Technical Services and Communication Engineering Services Annual Agreements earlier on this agenda. A recent history of total annual operating budgets and percentage changes over prior years is as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Annual Operating Budget</u>	<u>\$ Variance</u>	<u>% Variance</u>
2007-08	\$1,716,926		
2008-09	1,647,000	< 69,926>	- 4.1
2009-10	1,642,000	< 5,000>	- .3
2010-11	1,496,105	< 145,895>	- 8.9
2011-12	1,499,630	+ 3,525	+ .2
2012-13	1,591,930	+ 92,300	+ 6.2
2013-14	1,651,432	+ 59,502	+ 3.7

Major budget line item variances are County Communication Engineering Services (+\$25,178) and Legal Services (+\$3,000).

On December 14, 2011, the MERA Board formally approved System use by mutual aid and automatic backup agencies as critical to MERA Member operations and established a zero-rate fee schedule. Per Section 4 of Article VIII of the MERA Bylaws, the Executive Officer recommends, as part of the Annual Budget approval for FY 14-15, continuation of the zero-rate fee schedule for nonmember agencies. At their May 7 meeting, the Executive Board supported this recommendation subject to further review of non-member System use by Executive Board members Pearce and Gray and DPW Staff.

ATTACHMENTS: E-2a Proposed MERA FY 14-15 Operating Budget with Exhibits 1 & 2
FY14-15 Member Agency Contributions – Fund 70030 - Operating