

**MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY**

c/o Novato Fire Protection District

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**DATE:** June 15, 2017  
**TO:** MERA Finance and Next Gen Project Oversight Committees  
**FROM:** Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen Project  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM C: Update on Next Gen System Project

Recommended Action: Review, discuss and accept report.

Background:

We are currently in Customer Design Review (CDR) with Motorola. MERA is represented in these discussions by our Federal Engineering Project Manager, Denis Marin, MERA Operations Officer Pat Echols, Richard Chuck and myself, supported by additional County and Federal Engineering staff, as needed. A few key issues:

- 1) Fire Station Alerting – Separate agenda item
- 2) Radio Packages – Developing the radio equipment lists of what MERA will be providing – Separate agenda item
- 3) Agency Radio Inventory – We are currently working with our member agencies to compare the Communications Division inventory with local agency data.
- 4) Equipment Fair – Tentatively scheduled for mid to late July to allow MERA agencies to see and examine the proposed equipment as well as some optional equipment. This is dependent on the radio packages and radio inventory efforts so that agencies will know prior to the equipment fair what equipment is being provided.
- 5) Bandwidth Issues – We anticipate having detailed technical requirements to connect the remote dispatch centers and the fire stations to the prime site. This will likely require remote dispatch centers to upgrade their current connections. As for the fire stations, we understand that some locations may not currently have internet access and others may need upgrades. These connections are currently a local agency responsibility.
- 6) Talkgroup Templates – Fire and Law committees have started working to devise the talkgroup templates they would like to see implemented with the Next Gen system. Once finalized, these will likely drive the format of the other discipline talkgroup templates as well as affect the details of the eventual cutover plan in 2018. Several conventional channels currently in use will no longer be available. In addition, there are a number of new channels in the 700/800 Mhz range that will be available in addition to the 700 Mhz Bay Area Interoperability channels.
- 7) Cutover Plan – We are currently in discussion with Motorola on technical details of the cutover plan as it relates to the transition period in which both the Gen I and Next Gen systems need to be operational and interoperable to allow users on both systems to work together.

- 8) Microwave Backhaul – Sites have been visited by Motorola and Nokia for Nokia to perform microwave path surveys. We expect a final report this month. These path surveys are critical to confirm that the current design will function properly.
- 9) Site Development - Work on the design documents is in progress with the preliminary drawings due this month. Drawings from this process will be part of the future RFP for needed construction at current and new sites.
- 10) Coordination – At this point, the MERA Project Team has a bi-weekly call for internal coordination, the MERA Project Team and Motorola have a weekly Project Management meeting and a weekly Technical Issues call in addition to Ad Hoc meetings on specific topics.
- 11) Project Schedule – We anticipate a revised project schedule from Motorola in late June or early July.
- 12) GPS Tracking – A prior request to investigate the use of MERA radios and GPS tracking was addressed and a recommendation to not pursue that technology as it pertains to MERA radios was accepted.