



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Quality, Excellence, Innovation

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TO: MERA Governing Board

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SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM D-3: RECOMMENDATION ON
CONVENTIONAL RADIO CHANNELS AND RELATED COSTS

Recommended Action: MERA to provide funding for quarterly preventative maintenance cost of conventional radio system resources in support of the Next Gen system.

Accounting

Airport

Background & Discussion: At their May 10 meeting, the Governing Board approved funding one-time costs to relocate conventional radio resources necessitated by the Next Gen Project and requested that staff refer the discussion of annual maintenance and radio replacement costs to the Next Gen Project Oversight Committee (NGPOC) and the Finance Committee for a recommendation to your Board.

Building Maintenance

Capital Projects

Certified Unified Program
Agency (CUPA)

Analog equipment that is highly reliable provided that periodic preventative maintenance is performed. Typical maintenance tasks include checking transmit and receive frequency, power output, modulation, verifying line input/output levels, inspect antenna condition (VSWR and Visual), checking receiver sensitivity, checking cavity tuning, cleaning fans/filters, examining battery condition (if battery backed up), and conducting on-the-air tests with dispatch.

Communications Maintenance

County Garage

Disability Access

Engineering & Survey

Given that preventative maintenance for the MERA system equipment is performed on a quarterly basis, the same schedule is used for conventional equipment maintenance as both are located in the same facilities. On this basis, the cost to provide preventative maintenance for all conventional radio is currently about \$4,500. Replacement cost of a single radio varies between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Given the high reliability/durability of the conventional radios (some have been in operation for over 30 years), it is difficult to estimate replacement costs. There will likely be a period of many years with no replacement required.

Flood Control &
Water Resources

Land Development

Purchasing

Real Estate

Reprographic Services

This topic was discussed at a joint meeting of the NGPOC & Finance Committee on June 15. The NGPOC/Finance Committee supported the recommendation that MERA fund the preventative maintenance of all conventional radios. The County would continue to own conventional radio equipment and fund radio replacement costs.

Road Maintenance

Stormwater Program

Transportation &
Traffic Operations

Waste Management