

**MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY**

c/o Novato Fire Protection District  
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**DATE:** September 20, 2017  
**TO:** Measure A Citizen's Oversight Committee  
**FROM:** Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen Project  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM B: Update on Status of 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 – We have acquired Mach Alert as our Fire Station Alerting technology. Our kick-off meeting was on 08/22/17 and we are beginning a Customer Design Review process. The vendor has already completed site surveys of the station and siren sites.
- 2) Radio Packages – Radio packages and accessories have been developed and are being fine-tuned with Motorola.
- 3) Agency Radio Inventory – The initial inventory process is completed and details on our upcoming equipment order are currently being developed.
- 4) Equipment Fair – An equipment fair was held on 08/10/17 for MERA members to see and ask questions about the proposed MERA equipment. Approx. 80 people attended. The equipment fair also included two presentations on the Mach Alert Fire Station Alerting system.
- 5) Bandwidth Issues – We are finalizing bandwidth requirements for dispatch use and with the decision to proceed with Mach Alert, we will also be developing bandwidth requirements for the fire stations across the county.
- 6) Talkgroup Templates – Talkgroup templates for Law and Fire agencies are being finalized, to be followed by other local government users and fleetmapping, which includes determining features for the various proposed radios.
- 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. These path surveys are critical to confirm that the current design will function properly. We continue to work with Motorola on some of the paths in which issues have been identified.
- 9) 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.
- 10) Project Schedule – We anticipate a revised project schedule from Motorola in the near future.