

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

c/o Novato Fire Protection District
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NEXT GENERATION PROJECT **Media Contacts Update: 04/24/2019**

- As was discussed at the past meeting, the MERA President was contacted by a local media outlet about the status of the Next Gen Project and the Marin IJ published an article, editorial and editorial cartoon on the Next Gen Project and we wanted to share some points with you.
- Media inquiries about the Next Gen System should be referred to MERA Deputy Executive Officer Dave Jeffries at dave@jeffriespsc.com or 707-483-1098. A brief email describing your contact with the media can be helpful.
- POINTS TO CONSIDER:
 - After Measure A passage in November, 2014, MERA contracted with County on 6/30/15 to "successfully implement Next Gen Project on budget and on time". Pursuant to the Measure A Tax Ordinance, the Citizens Oversight Committee, with community members from each Supervisorial District, has met regularly to review the use of Measure A Parcel Tax Funds on the Next Gen System Project.
 - The County, on MERA's behalf, contracted with Federal Engineering to develop a Next Gen System Contractor Request For Proposal (RFP), help evaluate bids and select the successful bidder as well as manage Project construction.
 - MERA secured \$33M Bond financing for the Project.
 - The County, on MERA's behalf, contracted with JRA and WRA to manage the CEQA process, develop the Subsequent EIR (SEIR), address public comments and revise the SEIR accordingly for future MERA Governing Board approval.
 - Concurrent with the CEQA process, MERA and the County have conducted numerous community outreach meetings regarding the Next Gen Project.
 - Original Project completion timeline has been delayed due to Regional Planning Committee system frequency redesign requirements and approval, Motorola contract issues and Change Orders and additional time needed for development of the County-wide comprehensive SEIR, including extensive alternative site analysis studies, a draft which is expected to be released for public review in the next 60 days. Completion of system final design and site lease finalization cannot commence until the final SEIR is approved by the MERA Governing Board.
 - Given these delays, MERA and the County obtained Motorola commitment to supporting and extending useful life of the current System until NGP

cutover. The current System continues to provide effective communications to our public safety users. MERA also negotiated the ability for Members to replace some of their current radios with radios that will work on the current and new Systems.

- Efforts to mitigate NGP schedule delays include approval of early radio programming saving 8 months, advancement of other Project tasks awaiting CEQA completion, identification of fast-tracking Project delivery opportunities with Motorola and identification of ways to expedite post CEQA site leasing and construction planning.

- MERA NEXT GEN PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Install a new radio communications system as approved in Measure A by a vote of the public in November 2014.
- Modify the existing MERA system with new 700 MHz equipment to meet revised FCC requirements by 2023.
- Improve Marin County communications coverage to reduce 911 response times and ensure reliable communications among first responders during all disasters, and everyday operations.
- Provide Next Gen System communications coverage to meet 97% reliability in the Motorola contracted coverage area with delivered audio quality of 3.4 or better as measured by TSB-88 testing methods.
- Integrate the new Emergency Operations Facility (EOF) into the communications system.
- Maintain compliance with all land use, permitting and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

- PROPOSED NEXT GEN SITES:

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ○ Civic Center (Existing) | Sheriff's Office (EOF) (New) |
| ○ Big Rock Ridge (Existing) | Tomales (New) |
| ○ Mt. Tamalpais (Existing) | Coyote Peak (New) |
| ○ Mt. Barnabe (Existing) | Skyview Terrace (New) |
| ○ Point Reyes Hill (Existing) | Muir Beach (New) |
| ○ Dollar Hill (Existing) | Wolfback Ridge (New) |
| ○ San Pedro Ridge (Existing) | Mt. Burdell/OTA (New) |
| ○ Mt. Tiburon (Existing) | Mill Valley Water Tank (New) |
| ○ Sonoma Mountain (Existing) | |
| ○ Stewart Point (Existing) | |

- PROPOSED SITES TO BE DECOMMISSIONED:

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|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| ○ Forbes Hill | Mill Valley City Hall | Bay Hill Road |
| ○ Mt. Burdell | Mill Valley Police Station | |

- More information can be found on the MERA website at: www.meraonline.org