

**MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY**

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**DATE:** June 26, 2019  
**TO:** MERA Next Gen Project Oversight Committee  
**FROM:** Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen Project  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM #D: Radio Aliases and Knobology

Recommended Action: Review, discuss and comment on report.

Background:

On 03/18/19, a subcommittee of the Operational Issues Working Group met to discuss feature assignments for the physical controls of the Next Gen Radios as well as Potential Agency Radio Aliases.

1. Physical Radio Features: The subcommittee recommended that the Next Gen radios continue to use the existing radio features used on the Gen I radios. One exception to this will be the control used to enable encryption in the Gen I radios as the Next Gen System will not use that feature for encryption. I recommend that MERA staff develop a draft set of software (softkey) recommendations that, to the extent possible, mimic the Gen I softkey choices.
2. Radio Aliases: Based on the Subcommittee conversations and feedback received to date, I developed a draft that recommended radio alias configurations based on existing configurations, discussions of the Operational Issues Working Group and existing agency aliases that already exist within the Bay Area. Some of the agency aliases that we have used in the Gen I system are also used by other agencies in the Bay Area which could cause confusion in Next Gen mutual aid deployments. As a result of discussions of this draft, Mr. Simpson and I have searched for alternatives and Mr. Simpson identified a technical workaround to avoid needing to change existing agency aliases. We are now developing a plan, in conjunction with conversations with BayRICS, to have each radio identified by two separate agency aliases:
  - a. Primary Alias: These aliases will be used by MERA radios when working on the MERA system.
  - b. Secondary Aliases: These aliases will only be used when MERA radios are operating on non-MERA systems using the regional trunking interoperability talkgroups. In this listing, each alias will begin with "MRN" to identify the radio as a Marin County, or MERA, radio.

Attachment:

D-1: Radio Alias and Acronym Listing