

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

27 Commercial Blvd., Suite C, Novato, CA 94949

Phone: (415) 883-9100 FAX: (415) 883-9155

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 26, 2004

TO: MERA Board of Directors

FROM: Martin J. Nichols, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM E: DIRECT MOTOROLA TO CONSTRUCT THE
MT. TIBURON MERA SITE

Recommended Action: Authorize the MERA Executive Officer to direct Motorola to construct the Mt. Tiburon MERA site.

Background:

In 1998, 26 Marin agencies "...determined that it is in the public's interest to create the Marin Emergency Radio Authority" (MERA Joint Powers Agreement). They charged MERA to "...plan, finance, implement, manage, own and operate a multi-jurisdictional and countywide Public Safety and Emergency Radio System with the attendant facilities." (Article 2 – MERA JPA).

After years of delay, the fundamental reason for MERA remains unchanged – the citizens of Marin are at an unnecessary risk without completion of a modern emergency radio system.

With the California Supreme Court decision of August 11, 2004, the MERA Board of Directors can authorize construction of the MERA site at Mt. Tiburon and in a few months, have the system operational for a large majority of Marin residents.

Proceeding to build the Mt. Tiburon site is the most secure, least costly and most expeditious alternative available to your Board to complete this element of the countywide system and provide modern emergency communication services to Marin County.

If your Board authorizes construction of this site, we can begin site work in mid-September and be operational by the end of January 2005.