

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

c/o Novato Fire Protection District
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – PARCEL TAX STUDY

The Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA) is a joint exercise of powers agency created pursuant to Section 6500 *et seq.* of the California Government Code (the “JPA Act”) and a joint powers agreement among the County of Marin and 24 other local public agencies within the County. The Authority’s purpose is to plan, finance, implement, manage, own and operate a multi-jurisdictional and County-wide public safety and emergency radio system. The Authority originally financed the existing System through two separate obligations. The initial financing involved the issuance of its Marin Emergency Radio Authority Revenue Bonds, originally issued in the principal amount of \$26,940,000, which were subsequently refunded in whole by the \$18,575,000 principal amount of the Authority’s 2010 Refunding Revenue Bonds.

The Authority is currently planning an upgrade of the System to meet projected increased demands and reflect improved technology, at a current estimated cost of \$54 million. In order to finance the upgrade, the Authority is investigating the levy of a parcel tax to pay debt service, and to possibly fund certain other capital costs of the System. The parcel tax is proposed to be levied and administered by the County.

MERA is seeking proposals to undertake a County-wide parcel tax study. This analysis should include all parcels including property tax-exempt parcels. The study will develop an equitable and defensible allocation of project costs among all properties. Parcel taxes will be collected with property taxes except for public agency parcels which will be directly billed by the County. The taxes must be developed in a form compatible with Marin County’s property tax billing system. Development of the proposed parcel tax must reflect the requirements of Proposition 218.

Proposals to perform this study are due by 5:00pm February 26 and must include scope of services, deliverables, fees, timeline and qualifications of the individual(s) performing the work. Proposals should not exceed six pages (not including resumes and firm information). Submissions should be sent electronically to the MERA Executive Officer at mlc1948@aol.com and Tom Gaffney at tgaffney@bartlewells.com. Questions regarding the scope of services should be directed (by email or phone) to Tom Gaffney, MERA Finance Committee Vice-Chair and Volunteer Financial Advisor - (510) 653-3399 x106; or Maureen Cassingham, MERA Executive Officer – (510) 886-3429.