

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

c/o Novato Fire Protection District
95 Rowland Way, Novato, CA 94945
PHONE: (415) 878-2690 FAX: (415) 878-2660
WWW.MERAONLINE.ORG

DATE: September 10, 2014
TO: MERA Finance Committee
FROM: Dave Jeffries, Special Project Manager
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM **D**: Timeline for Communications to Members and Non-Member Users – Next Gen Project Radio Costs

Recommended Action: Receive, discuss and, provide direction on issues and timeline.

Background:

In discussions amongst project staff and with the MERA Executive Board, there are issues that need to be addressed with MERA Member agencies and Non-Member agencies that have a connection to MERA finances. The purpose of this report is to identify those issues and recommend that the Finance Committee identify a timeline to discuss and recommend solutions to the MERA Executive Board.

Issues:

1) The current plan is to have MERA provide a 1 for 1 replacement of Gen I radios with Gen II radios as the Gen II system comes on-line. This plan is already included in the project budget. A determination needs to be made as to what quantities will be replaced under this plan. The total number of radios is slowly, but continuing to increase over time.

a) Should a date be set to determine the number of MERA Member radios that will be replaced under the Gen II Project Budget?

b) If so, what date should we use? On this issue, I would suggest that the cutoff date be prior to Vendor Contract Negotiations, which are tentatively scheduled for 11/2015. The dates and process should also be shared with the Operations Committee and all MERA Member Agencies prior to the first of the year and repeated once or twice before the cutoff date.

The date should be set early enough to support purchasing decisions later in this project and to allow MERA Member agencies time to plan their transitions. Based on discussions with the Executive Board, this replacement plan will only apply to MERA member agencies.

2) A second issue that has been discussed is the non-MERA Member agencies and Operating and Maintenance expenses.

- a) Should non-member agencies be contributing towards MERA Operating and Maintenance expenses once the Gen II system is operational?
- b) In what manner and amount should they participate?
- c) Is there a difference between Non-Member Mutual Aid partners and other Non-Member agencies and companies?
- d) How do we address bringing in new MERA Member agencies?

Examples of these MERA Non-Member agencies include agencies such as the California Highway Patrol (Marin Patrol and Napa Air), Sonoma County Sheriff (Air), Private ambulances, Coast Guard, and Point Reyes National Seashore Rangers, to name a few.

These are likely long-range discussions that may take time and energy to adequately resolve. The point in bringing these to your attention at this time is to frame the issues and develop a timeline to address these issues in a reasonable and efficient manner for Executive Board consideration at their meeting on November 12, 2014.

NON-MERA User Agencies September 10, 2014

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Radios</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>	<u>Member Agency</u>	<u>Description</u>
Point Reyes National Seashore	47	X	Mutual Aid	Pt. Reyes Sea Shore law is dispatched by Marin County Sheriff Dispatch.
San Antonio Volunteer Fire	19	X	Mutual Aid	Mutual Aid Fire District in Sonoma County.
Falck/Veri-Health Ambulance (Replaced AMR took over AMR Radios, requested 15, implemented 12)	12	X	Contract Services	Contract Ambulance Company
California Highway Patrol	11	X	Mutual Aid	Mutual aid with all MERA law members.
GGNRA Fire	10	X	Mutual Aid	Mutual Aid to Marin County Fire.
California State Parks	8	X	Mutual Aid	California State Parks located in Marin county.
GGNRA Law	7	X	Mutual Aid	Mutual Aid to Marin County Law
Pro-Transport Ambulance	7	X	Contract Services	Contract Ambulance Service
St. Joseph's Ambulance	7	X	Contract Services	Contract Ambulance Service
Pt. Reyes Seashore Fire	6	X	Mutual Aid	Mutual Aid to Marin County Fire.
Northern California Ambulance (May 7, 2014 requested 3 more radios, not yet implemented)	5	X	Contract Services	Contract Ambulance Service
Sonoma County Sheriff	3	X	Mutual Aid	Aircraft Mutual Aid
US Coast Guard Pt. Reyes	3	X	Mutual Aid	Mutual Aid to Marin County Law/Fire
American Red Cross	2	X	Mutual Aid	Mutual Aid to Marin County Law/Fire
Fish & Game	2	X	Mutual Aid	Mutual Aid to Marin County Law/Fire
San Francisco Fire Command	1	X	Mutual Aid	ACU Radio Mutual Aid to all MERA agencies
Sonoma County Fire Services	1	X	Mutual Aid	ACU Radio Mutual Aid to all MERA agencies