

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

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DATE: February 24, 2021

TO: MERA Governing Board

FROM: Andrew LeBlanc, Operations Officer

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM C-1: Proposed Sonoma Mt. Microwave Link Agreement between MERA and County of Sonoma

Recommended Action: Approve proposed Sonoma Mountain Microwave Link Agreement between MERA and County of Sonoma and authorize the Executive Officer to execute same

Background: On May 13, 2020, the Governing Board directed the Operations Officer to work with Sonoma to transfer operational control of the Sonoma-Bay Hill microwave link FCC license to Sonoma County. On October 28, 2020, Governing Board staff prepared a draft agreement between MERA and Sonoma County for this cutover.

As part of the GEN 1 network, MERA purchased, installed, and maintains a microwave link between Sonoma Mountain and Bay hill Road. Sonoma County operates sites at Bay hill Road and Sonoma Mountain and utilizes the MERA microwave link to connect these two sites. With the migration from Gen1 to the Next-Gen, the MERA Bay hill road site will be decommissioned.

As part of this decommissioning activity, Sonoma County will purchase, install, and maintain a new microwave link between Sonoma Mountain and Bay Hill Road. Sonoma County has proposed that MERA utilize the new Sonoma County Bay Hill link and decommission the existing MERA link. Sonoma County has requested this as they require additional bandwidth to support future services on their network and facilitate a smooth transition over once when MERA decommissions the Bay Hill Road equipment.

Sonoma County will not leverage any additional charges for MERA to utilize the new Sonoma Bay Hill Link. Additionally, MERA and Sonoma County will develop a robust cutover plan which will facilitate the transparent migration to the new Sonoma County link without impact to MERA and Sonoma County users. Upon successfully cutting MERA traffic to the Sonoma County link MERA will decommission the existing first Gen link.

Attachments:

C-1a - Sonoma Bayhill Microwave Link Agreement