



September 28, 2022

Governing Board Communication

Agenda Item B-2

TO: MERA Governing Board

FROM: Heather Plamondon, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: System Key Sharing with City and County of San Francisco (Action Item)

Recommended Action: Consider approval of Sharing the Next Gen System Key with City and County Of San Francisco (CCSF) per the MERA Policy.

Background:

Today's modern radio systems contain several features that we have reviewed as part of the Gen I and Next Gen Systems. One of those is the ability to share System Keys with outside agencies to facilitate mutual aid.

The System Key essentially provides user radios with a password to access our MERA radio system. Our MERA radios have the MERA System Key programmed into them.

In August 2022, this Board approved a System Key Sharing Policy.

The MERA Next Gen System Key is essentially still a blank key that holds no system management information other than the System ID.

In 2021 during a Key Sharing opportunity held with the BayRICS Regional Partners, this blank key was shared with the Regional Partners and CCSF used this blank key, with the MERA system ID only, to put place holders in their fleet of radios to be updated at a time when the MERA key was active. As described in the policy, these shareable keys have an expiration date in them, and require a manual update to maintain active status, CCSF is requesting a current copy of the MERA blank key to maintain the placeholder status in their radio fleet until such time as the MERA Next Gen System goes live and the Interoperability Code Plug for MERA can be shared. To not allow this would cause a considerable workload on the CCSF technical team as they would need to physically re-touch each of the radios in their fleet.