

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

P. O. Box 4186, San Rafael, CA 94913-4186 • 415/499-6528 • FAX 415/499-3799 • TTY 415/473-3232

COUNTY OF MARIN

www.co.marin.ca.us/pw

ADMINISTRATION

499-6528

ACCOUNTING

499-7877 • FAX 507-2899

AIRPORT

451-A AIRPORT ROAD

NOVATO, CA 94945

897-1754 • FAX 897-1264

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

499-6576 • FAX 499-3250

CAPITAL PROJECTS

499-7877 • FAX 499-3724

COMMUNICATION
MAINTENANCE

499-7313 • FAX 499-3738

DISABILITY ACCESS

499-6528

CALIFORNIA RELAY SERVICE 711

ENGINEERING & SURVEY

499-7877 • FAX 499-3724

FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

499-6528

COUNTY GARAGE

499-7380 • FAX 499-7190

LAND DEVELOPMENT

499-6549

PRINTING

499-6377 • FAX 499-6617

PURCHASING

499-6371

REAL ESTATE

499-6578 • FAX 446-7373

ROAD MAINTENANCE

499-7388 • FAX 499-3656

STORMWATER PROGRAM

499-6528

TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING & TRAFFIC
OPERATIONS

499-6528

WASTE MANAGEMENT

499-6647 • FAX 446-7373

ALL AREA CODES ARE 415

Farhad Mansourian, RCE

Director

May 12, 2010

MERA Executive Committee
c/o Novato Fire Protection District
95 Rowland Way
Novato, CA 94945

Agenda Item C-1

Subject: MERA System Upgrade Information

Dear Executive Committee Members:

This report summary is being submitted to the MERA Executive Committee to provide additional information which may be helpful in future strategic planning. The MERA Operations Committee was presented the information at its May 5, 2010 meeting. No action is required by MERA Executive Committee at this time.

The Bay Area Urban Area Security Initiative program (UASI) was created in 2006 to explore regional interoperability programs and fund those portions that had the most benefit for regional communications interoperability. The UASI program recently funded a 700 MHz interoperability study for Marin County. The study was conducted by the consulting firm "CTA". CTA is a consulting firm specializing in interoperability solutions. The study resulted in four options for Marin County, all of which have a 700 MHz interoperability component. The options range from the installation of simple stand-alone 700 MHz repeaters to a full 700 MHz system replacement. A detailed explanation of the options is included in the attached report.

Regional communications interoperability is considered the key to long term communications solutions for the Bay area. The MERA system provides excellent interoperability within Marin County, but falls short on regional interoperability goals and objectives.

In summary:

Option 1 – Adds some 700 MHz repeaters to the existing MERA system to facilitate interoperability when out-of-area users come to Marin. This option is being funded by UASI grant funds, but does nothing to enhance MERA capacity or coverage;

Option 2 – Upgrades MERA to address the existing capacity problems only and adds 700 MHz for interoperability;

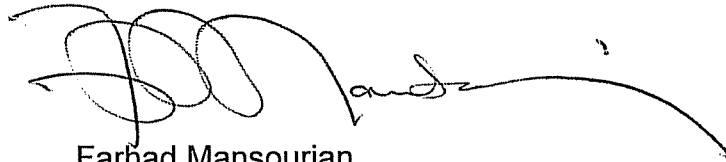
Option 3 – Upgrades MERA system for capacity, adds more sites to solve the existing coverage problems and adds 700 MHz for interoperability,

Option 4 – Replaces the complete MERA system with a new 700 MHz system.

Even though no action is requested of MERA at this time, in the near future a critical decision addressing staying on MERA's present frequency band (UHF) or moving to 700 MHz will be required of the strategic planning committee. The decision to utilize UHF or 700 MHz for future MERA systems is technology independent and impacts critical FCC licensing.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Farhad Mansourian', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Farhad Mansourian
Director