

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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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-2

Subject: MERA Expansion Project – Change Order Request

Dear Executive Committee Members:

On September 30, 2009 the MERA Board of Directors executed the new channel expansion contract with Motorola at the cost of \$1,010,091. Since that time the system design work, equipment manufacturing and shipping of related equipment has been completed.

Through diligence and meticulous auditing, our staff has identified approximately \$100,000 savings within the present contract.

We have two options for this savings:

- #1 – Reduce contract by \$100,000.
- #2 – Leave \$100,000 in the contract and Motorola will give us equipment and services worth \$170,000.

The latter option can be utilized as follows:

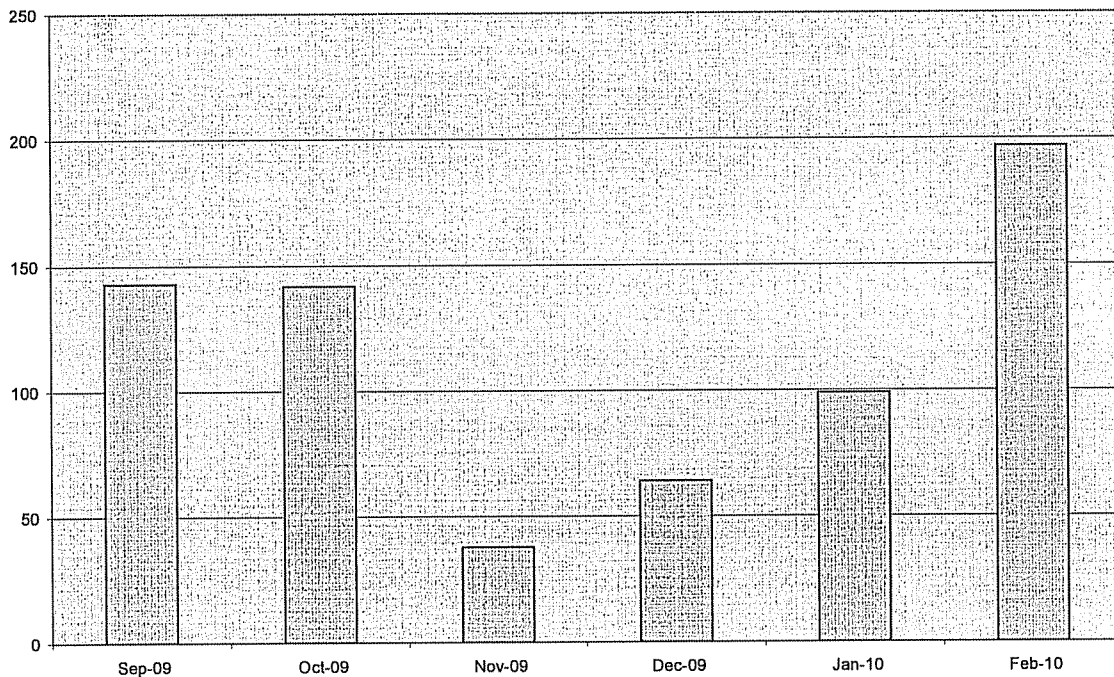
- a. \$110,000 adding a channel to the Sonoma Mountain site utilizing one of the available frequencies obtained from Fleettalk.
- b. \$60,000 toward additional system spare parts.

Sonoma Mountain Site Expansion

Radio busies happen when all radio channels at an individual site are in use and an additional call for service is received without any channels available for assignment. All busies in the MERA system have been the result of activity at three sites; 1) East simulcast, 2) West simulcast and 3) Sonoma Mountain. The MERA expansion project addresses the most significant sources of busies the East and West simulcast systems and provides the most reduction in busies for the dollars spent. The busies contributed by the Sonoma Mountain site are less frequent and of a shorter duration than those seen on the East and West simulcast systems. They are localized

in north and west Marin and are due to the small number of radio channels (4 talk paths) allocated to the Sonoma site. On May 16, 2008 there was a localized fire incident in Novato which was held primarily on the Sonoma Mountain system. Many busies were reported due to the low number of channels available. Channels were utilized for Dispatch, Command and two for Tactical operations. When law units arrived and wanted to use the Sonoma Mountain site no channels were available and busies resulted. During emergency or heavy storm activity the addition of one radio channel to the Sonoma Mountain site will reduce the chance of getting a busy signal at this site from ten percent to less than three percent. On a normal day the chance of getting a busy will be less than one/half of a percent. The following chart shows that Sonoma Mountain contributes busies on a regular basis. These busies could all but be eliminated with the addition of an additional channel.

Sonoma Mt. Busy Seconds



Spare parts for the MERA System

Segments of the MERA system have reached, or are about to reach, the end of their production cycles and will not be available after supplies are exhausted. The attached list of critical spare parts would benefit the longevity of the MERA system and provide additional years of uninterrupted service.

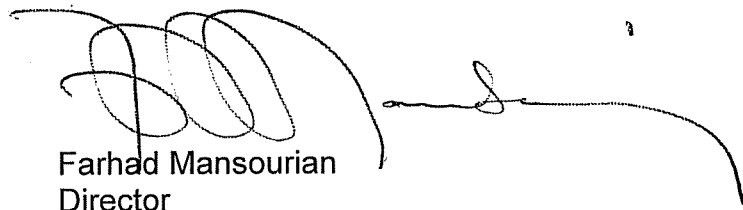
Additional MERA System Spare Parts

DSM2 card	Cross connect card
Cross connect card	WAN card
WAN card single SS	COIM BLN1227B
LOMI	IRB card
Data Broadcast box	Vega Switch
DB 800 Multicoupler	Comparator Controller card
Comparator Wire-line	ROCI card
CEB power supply	6809 site controller card
Interface panel	DSM II card interface
WAN card interface	4 WIRE interface

It is therefore recommended that you authorize the change order to utilize the contract saving of \$170,000 toward adding a channel at the MERA Sonoma Site and purchasing additional network spare parts.

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

Very truly yours,



Farhad Mansourian
Director