

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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COUNTY OF MARIN

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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-5

Subject: Communications Grant Program Status Report

Dear Executive Committee Members:

On behalf of MERA, and all agencies within the County of Marin, our staff has been actively pursuing communications system related grants and funding alternatives. Over the last two years \$3,574,016 in communications and interoperability related grants have been obtained. All short term projects have been installed or are in the process of being completed at this time. Longer term Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) projects are being implemented and managed as required. Projects vary in complexity from installation of a single VHF radio base station for mutual aid use to on-going participation in the UASI interoperability and microwave systems. Some of the keynote projects are:

UASI 2008 – A grant totaling \$362,250 for a Consultant to study interoperability options between Marin County and its neighbors. Study is complete with final report to be presented to the MERA Operations Committee on May 5, 2010.

UASI 2009 – A grant for \$650,000 for the North Bay counties (Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano) to provide a limited, 700 MHz interoperability system. Marin County's portion of this grant is \$250,000.

UASI 2010 – A grant for \$1,238,402 for the North Bay counties (Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano) to provide additional 700 MHz interoperability. Marin County's portion of this grant is \$400,000 in equipment and \$30,940 in system planning.

UASI Bay Loop Microwave – This is an on-going microwave project designed to provide microwave system connections throughout the bay area. Marin County is receiving new microwave equipment

estimated at \$946,551 to complete its portion of the loop. The second phase of this project is scheduled to begin in May 2010.

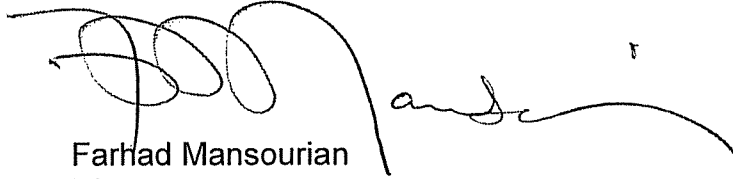
CALEMA FY09 – A grant has been secured from the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) for \$101,813 to enhance VHF and UHF interoperability and Mutual Aid communication systems within the County.

IECGP FY09 – A grant has been secured from the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) for \$275,000 to enhance interoperable communications within the County. Included are development of a Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) and Communications Asset Mapping (CASM), a cache of multi-band mobile and portable radios and a new radio channel for transit operations.

The cost to administer these programs has been \$108,596 in Staff time. The administrative cost has been completely born by Marin County even though the projects benefit not only Marin County and MERA members, but all public safety agencies within Marin and surrounding counties.

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

Very truly yours,



Farhad Mansourian  
Director