

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

People serving people.

Robert Beaumont
DIRECTOR

May 9, 2012

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MERA Executive Committee
95 Rowland Way
Novato, CA 94945

Re: Next Generation System Feasibility Study

Dear Directors,

MERA's existing 14 year old 400 MHz T-Band system has limited capacity and limited coverage. The system was designed in 1998 to accommodate 1,580 mobile and portable radios. Today it serves about 2,875 radios, which is far above the project total that was originally anticipated. In addition, the existing computer and software systems have a limited life and over time elements are no longer supported by their manufacturers.

The Finance Committee has requested preparation of a Feasibility Study and project cash flow for a new system. A draft of the Feasibility Study will be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting. A number of policy issues will be discussed including:

- The number of radios to purchase, the distribution formula, and the cost policy for additional radios
- Property based revenue measures, including the amount per parcel and the number of years
- A competitive grant procurement strategy, including when to invest MERA resources in grant writing and procurement
- Options to reduce the time to implement the new system, such as funding work earlier for the proposed three new sites. (Note that work on two of the sites is underway, and the subject of separate staff reports. Work has not commenced on a new North County site).

Expenditures:

MERA has previously authorized \$50,000 expenditure towards producing a 700MHz System Next Generation Feasibility Study.

Contracts

At this time there are no contracts executed for consultants

Mera Operations - Capital Projects – Feasibility Study: Invoiced to MERA

February 15, 2012	\$9,719.41 Paid
April 12, 2012	\$3,456.55 Unpaid

Accounting

Airport

Building Maintenance

Capital Projects

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)

Communications Maintenance

County Garage

Disability Access

Engineering & Survey

Flood Control & Water Resources

Land Development

Purchasing

Real Estate

Reprographic Services

Road Maintenance

Stormwater Program

Transportation & Traffic Operations

Waste Management

Forecast

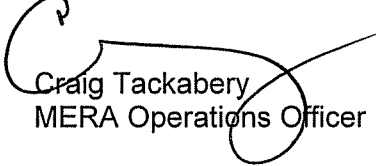
MERA Operations -

Average DPW expends 5.2 hours for the Operations Director and 13.6 hours for the Communications Services Manager toward this project.

Contract hourly rate –	Ops Director	\$xx per hour
	Comm. Services Manager	\$xx per

It is recommended that MERA approve the \$3,456.55 expenditure included in the April 12, 2012 invoice, authorize additional expenses for the balance of this fiscal year through June 30, 2012, and authorize additional expenses during the three year contract period, not to exceed \$50,000 for all expenses without prior authorization from MERA.

Very truly yours,



Craig Tackabery
MERA Operations Officer