

**MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY**

c/o Novato Fire Protection District

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**DATE:** February 18, 2014  
**TO:** MERA Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Maureen Cassingham, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM E: REVIEW OF ANCILLARY USE -  
NEXT GEN SYSTEM BONDS

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Recommended Action: Receive and file Review of Ancillary Use—Next Gen System Bonds.

Background: Finance Committee Vice Chair Gaffney, during the December 4, 2013 Finance Committee Meeting, discussed possible 10% ancillary use of Next Gen System bond proceeds for non-police/fire system user radio costs. He has since followed-up on same with Bond Counsel Stava. Bond Counsel has opined that a rationale for including Next Gen Project Costs associated with Member public works and transit radios and their use of the system be developed for inclusion in the post-election validation process.

Draft wording of the rationale might be as follows:

The effectiveness of the delivery of police, fire and emergency medical services depends on emergency communications between MERA Member Police and Fire Departments with MERA Member Public Works Departments which are responsible for providing and maintaining local streets, traffic signal and control, water delivery and street lighting systems. In the event of local and mass public evacuation, Public Safety must also be able to readily communicate with Transit on MERA radios.

Since the performance of first responders is greatly dependent on safe and effective access to these systems via Marin Emergency Radio Authority radio communications/coordination with Public Works and Transit, these project costs should be covered by parcel tax proceeds.

This language could be enhanced with examples of critical communications between Public Safety and DPW/Transit operations that occur during incident response, local emergencies and major disasters. Given our lead time on this, more background can be provided on what else can be done to make the case for the support of these costs with parcel taxes.