

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

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DATE: July 14, 2014

TO: MERA Executive Board

FROM: Maureen Cassingham, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM **B-2**: PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY REQUESTING THE COUNTY OF MARIN TO SUBMIT A MEASURE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO LEVY A SPECIAL PARCEL TAX TO THE COUNTY'S VOTERS AT THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014

Recommended Action: Recommend the Proposed Resolution of the Governing Board of the Marin Emergency Radio Authority Requesting the County of Marin to Submit a Measure Authorizing the County to Levy a Special Parcel Tax to the County's Voters at the Election to Be Held on November 4, 2014.

Background: As fiduciaries of the MERA county-wide public safety emergency communications system, the Governing and Executive Boards, Finance, Project Oversight and Strategic Planning Committees, MERA advisors and staff have invested thousands of hours and considerable financial resources in planning for MERA's future and system replacement.

Initial work on MERA's Strategic Plan began in late 2009, the centerpiece of which was system replacement in recognition of the approaching end of the current system's useful life. Subsequent to Strategic Plan adoption in 2010, a Next Gen System Feasibility Study by DPW was commissioned, along with development of a Project Budget, a Financing Plan and member/public Outreach Plan. These efforts were unanimously recommended or approved by MERA's Committees and Boards.

MERA and the County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in Support of the Next Gen Radio System in 2014, which sets forth MERA's lead agency responsibilities, including preparing the action before you today.

MERA's 25 Member agencies have since received presentations on the Next Gen System Project, resulting in their adoption of Resolutions of Support for the Project and proposed Parcel Tax to fund it.

Since MERA has no authority to levy a special parcel tax, the Authority and its member agencies are requesting the County to do so on its behalf. The attached Resolution also includes the ballot question and Ordinance for voter approval. Upon passage of the measure, the Ordinance will be

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implemented by a post-election Agreement between MERA and the County of Marin, which will address the transfer of tax proceeds from the County to MERA and commit MERA to performing annual tax administration services (e.g., tax roll updates, processing exemption requests, levy calculations, database maintenance, County submittals, and reporting), compliance auditing and other related requirements.

Upon Governing Board approval, MERA's Resolution will be scheduled for presentation to the County Board of Supervisors on July 22, 2014.

ATTACHMENT:

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Marin Emergency Radio Authority
Requesting the County of Marin to Submit a Measure Authorizing the
County to Levy a Special Parcel Tax to the County's Voters at the Election
to be Held on November, 2014.

(to be distributed under separate cover)