

Agenda Item F

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

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DATE: August 12, 2015
TO: MERA Finance Committee
FROM: Maureen Cassingham, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM **F**: FINANCING OF NEXT GEN PROJECT
NON-POLICE/FIRE SERVICES COSTS

Recommended Action: Provide an informational update and next steps to the Executive and Governing Boards on the financing of Next Gen Project Non-Police/Fire Services Costs.

Background: On December 11, 2013 the MERA Governing Board approved the use of MERA Reserves for non-police/fire Next Gen Project costs. Approximately \$2M of the \$40M Next Gen Project Budget is attributed to the proportionate share of system backbone costs and radios for Member agency public works, transit and other non-police/fire system users. At the time of the Governing Board's recommendation, the current Bond Reserve and the replenished Replacement Fund were identified as possible funding sources.

Given Measure A's reliance on Government Code 5378, which permits a non-uniform tax for Next Gen for the purpose of providing police and fire services and voter approval of the use of all tax proceeds solely for the Next Gen System Project, Bond Counsel and Tax Counsel are reviewing the Next Gen Budget to determine whether payment of all system costs with the parcel tax is permissible. With the Court-approved Validation Action in hand, this may provide additional support for inclusion of non-police/fire system costs.

Staff has also posited the use of a consultant study which could further corroborate non-police/fire system costs as integral to first responder response and the effective delivery of emergency services. This study, if needed, could assist Bond and Tax Counsels in support of their opinions on this matter.

Staff will continue to provide support to Counsels to resolve this very important matter and report accordingly to the Committee and MERA Boards on the next steps.