

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

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DATE: September 27, 2017
TO: MERA Governing Board
FROM: Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen Project
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM B-1: Report #31 on Next Gen System Project

Recommended Action: Review, discuss and accept report.

Background:

- 1) Project Schedule – In the past couple of weeks, it has become apparent that the project progress has stalled. While we have been working through a number of issues, Motorola recently advised MERA that in applying recently identified 700 MHz restrictions from an organization known as the Regional Planning Committee (RPC), they identified significant impacts on the current system design and significant impacts on contracted field and in-building coverage. As a result, Motorola is pursuing four potential avenues including a 700 MHz plan as defined in the contract; a modified 700 MHz plan that would involve the possibility of obtaining waivers from the RPC; a hybrid 700 MHz/800 MHz system and an 800 MHz system. It is possible that the ultimate solution may require additional and/or different sites, as well as a redesign of the microwave plan. The current estimate to complete this new effort is March 2018 with the likelihood that the results and recommendations would be ready for a May 2018 Governing Board meeting. This process needs to be close to completion prior to beginning the CEQA process, which very likely delays site development to Spring, 2019 at the earliest. Until we have more details on the proposed solution, it is too early to identify any potential cost issues. Motorola has committed to maintaining the multi-band radio upgrade offer and the field equipment 12/31/17 order discount past the current due dates. As this information is evolving, a verbal update will be provided at the Governing Board meeting.
- 2) Radio Packages – A detailed list of proposed equipment, with specific part numbers and detailed costs is under development.
- 3) Agency Radio Inventory – Preliminary surveys on end user equipment and consolettes were conducted and agencies are currently reviewing their proposed equipment orders. Finalizing the proposed order is pending the detailed radio packages, costs and the potential of multi-band radios that is still under discussion.

- 4) Talkgroup Templates – Fire and Law committees are completing work to devise the talkgroup templates they would like to see implemented with the Next Gen system. Once finalized, these will likely drive the format of the other discipline talkgroup templates as well as affect the details of the eventual cutover plan in 2018. Several conventional channels currently in use will no longer be available. In addition, there are a number of new channels in the 700/800 MHz range that will be available in addition to the 700 MHz Bay Area Interoperability channels. We had set a due date of 09/01/2017 for this effort, but that has been delayed as a result of the project schedule delays.
- 5) Fire Station Alerting – The kickoff meeting and site visits have been completed. We are working on a contract with the Sheriff's CAD vendor to interface (API support) the software between the two systems.
- 6) Broadband Requirements – We have a draft of the Dispatch center broadband requirements for dispatch agency connection to MERA and will be following that up with fire station broadband requirements for the Fire Station Alerting project.
- 7) Cutover Plan – We are currently in final discussions with Motorola on technical details of the cutover plan as it relates to the transition period in which both the Gen I and Next Gen systems need to be operational and interoperable to allow users on both systems to work together.