

**MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY**

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**DATE:** January 24, 2018  
**TO:** MERA Governing Board  
**FROM:** Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen Project  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM B-1: Report No. 36 on Next Gen System Project

Recommended Action: Review, discuss and accept report.

Background:

MERA staff continues to meet with Motorola on a regular basis on a variety of issues:

1) Project Meetings and Conference Calls since the last GB meeting:

- a. MERA Project Calls: 12/19/17, 01/08/18, 01/22/18
- b. Motorola Project Meetings: 12/19/17, 01/18/18
- c. Motorola Technical Calls: 01/09/18, 01/18/18

2) Project Staff Change

- a. Our Federal Engineering Project Manager, Denis Marin, will be leaving the project at the end of February 2018. A replacement is being recruited and update will be provided at the Governing Board meeting.

3) Regional Planning Committee Hearing

- a. The Regional Planning Committee meeting was in Milpitas on 01/11/18.
- b. At the prior meeting in Sacramento on 12/14/17, the matter was continued to the 01/11/18 meeting to allow EBRCSA (Contra Costa/Alameda County) to evaluate potential conflicts between the MERA and EBRCSA systems.
- c. At the 01/11/18 meeting, the EBRCSA concerns were discussed and the RPC voted unanimously to approve the MERA application. That application will now continue thru two more steps to receive FCC licensing for our RF frequencies. While this process is not complete, the RPC approval was the key step and we will be able to move forward on the overall project.

4) Project Schedule (Draft)

- a. A revised schedule is expected from Motorola. Highlights will be provided to the GB at the meeting.

#### 5) Dual Band Radio Order

- a. Motorola had originally offered a dual band radio upgrade at no cost if delivery was made in 09/2017. In conversation with Motorola, the offer was expanded to tri-band radios. Motorola revised the offer to include tri-band if delivered by 12/31/17 and dual band if delivered in June 2018.
- b. There was insufficient time to address the revised tri-band offer, but we are currently addressing the dual band offer with two orders:
  - i. Around 02/01/18, process orders for those agencies with an immediate need for radios to operate on the current system. These radios will provide access to the current UHF-T band system and will also function on the Next Gen 700/800 MHz system.
  - ii. Around 05/01/18, accept orders from any MERA agency wanting dual band radios.
  - iii. These radios will be an early delivery from each agency/s final order and the warranty will be re-started at system acceptance. Programming costs will be a local agency expense for these early delivered radios.
  - iv. We are still awaiting an update from Motorola on the discount for acceptance of all end user radios.

#### 6) Talkgroup Templates

- a. Draft templates are currently under review with a change in concepts for using encrypted talkgroups. Project staff has scheduled a special technical meeting on 01/26/18 to discuss talkgroup templates and the transition/cutover process.