

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

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DATE: February 22, 2018
TO: MERA Finance Committees
FROM: Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen Project
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM C: Update on Next Gen System Project

Recommended Action: Review, discuss and accept report.

Background:

We are currently in Customer Design Review (CDR) with Motorola. MERA is represented in these discussions by our Federal Engineering Project Manager, Denis Marin, MERA Operations Officer Ernest Klock, Richard Chuck and myself, supported by additional County and Federal Engineering staff, as needed. A few key issues:

- 1) MERA received unanimous approval from the Regional Planning Committee for our Next Gen project at their 01/11/2018 meeting. Since that time, our application has completed frequency coordination and is on its final step with FCC licensing.
- 2) Fire Station Alerting – In progress, but early in the process. Not impacting system schedule.
- 3) Radio Orders – An initial order for dual-band radios was submitted to Motorola. These radios include the free upgrade to dual band radios and was aimed at agencies having an immediate need for replacement radios. Three agencies took advantage of this offer. A second offer will be submitted for June 2018 delivery. This will also include the dual band offer. The scope of this order is still under discussion as it may include all mobile radios as discussed below. Subscriber (field equipment) is separate from the project payment milestones and is invoiced upon receipt. If we do take all of the mobile radios this summer, with a number of portable radios, then a large portion of the equipment costs will be payable in summer, 2018. Once we have determined what is to be ordered, we will be able to provide a cost estimate.
- 4) Agency Radio Inventory – We are working to finalize member agency radio inventories to support the radio orders.
- 5) Bandwidth Issues – We anticipate having detailed technical requirements to connect the remote dispatch centers and the fire stations to the prime site. This will likely require remote dispatch centers to upgrade their current connections. As for the fire stations, we understand that some locations may not currently have internet access and others may need upgrades. These connections are currently a local agency responsibility. Member agency guidance is pending and scheduled for this month.

- 6) Talkgroup Templates – Fire and Law committees have developed draft talkgroup templates that are under further review based on technical suggestions. Richard Chuck and I are also working with BayRICS on 03/15/2018 to clarify regional interoperability expectations for mutual aid.
- 7) Cutover Plan – We are currently in discussion 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.
- 8) Microwave Backhaul – The Microwave plan was reviewed on 02/15. A verbal update can be provided at the meeting.
- 9) Site Development - 30% drawings from Motorola were reviewed and feedback provided. Revised drawings are expected the week of 02/02/18.
- 10) Coordination –
 - a. MERA Project Staff meets bi-weekly regarding Gen I and Next Gen issues.
 - b. Motorola Project Management Meetings take place every Thursday with MERA staff.
 - c. Motorola Technical Calls occur every Thursday with MERA project staff.
 - d. We have engaged in a series of special meetings on specific topics:
 - i. Fleetmapping 01/25/2018
 - ii. Site Audits 02/01/2018
 - iii. Architectural and Engineering packages 02/08/2018
 - iv. Cutover Planning and Microwave Design 02/15/18
 - v. Additional Fleetmapping 02/22/2018
- 11) Project Schedule – MERA received an updated draft schedule from Motorola. A final schedule will be provided as part of the Customer Design Review documents due 04/27/2018. Based on the revised draft schedule, project finalization has been moved up to 04/30/2021. We are working with Motorola on additional proposals that might accelerate the project an additional eight months to 08/30/2020.
- 12) Budget Updates:
 - a. See attached Draft Budget Overview, ver. 02/12/2018
 - b. This includes estimated costs for delays past last projected date of completion of 03/30/2019.
 - c. This does not include potential change orders for:
 - i. Over the Air Programming (\$350,000)
 - ii. Live equipment location adjustments (\$500,000)
 - iii. Final Equipment Order (TBD)

Attachment:

Draft Budget Overview, ver. 02/12/2018