



## **NEXT GENERATION PROJECT**

### **June 2019 Governing Board UPDATE:**

- Field Survey Inspections for all MERA member agencies has begun. The Survey involves gathering data from three categories: vehicle ID information including radio mount type, information and count on all MERA portable radios and chargers, and for each facility, their internet provider and access information to support Wi-Fi radio programming. To schedule your Survey Inspection, submit count sheets or have any questions contact Maura Griffin at [mera.mgriffin@gmail.com](mailto:mera.mgriffin@gmail.com)
- After the non-Land Mobile Radio traffic on the existing MERA microwave system and other features were considered, MPLS has been suggested as an alternative to accommodate these services, and CCO#8 was proposed. Given that some existing diagnostic and security services will not be available in the Layer 2 microwave design that is currently planned, there will be increased maintenance costs and higher risk of system busy or temporary outages as technicians would have to drive to remote sites to diagnose certain system performance that currently is monitored remotely via the microwave network. Another significant benefit of MPLS is that the vast amount of unused bandwidth on the new microwave network could be utilized for MERA to support applications (additional remote monitoring features, security cameras, etc.) and transmission of third-party traffic that could generate revenues for MERA. Five options for these changes has been developed for review.
- The Project Team has been working diligently on the development of the Draft Next Gen Project Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). All special studies and investigations have been completed. The Project Team has conducted informational presentations with stakeholder groups and additional outreach has also been conducted with National Park Service staff related to potential project impacts, in which agencies have indicated support for the Next Gen Project. The Draft SEIR is in the final editing stage and is anticipated to be complete by the end of June. MERA will be holding a Board Hearing reviewing the Draft SEIR in early-mid August with a public review period of 45 days following in early September.

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Our MERA team relies on the input and participation of all of our 25 member agencies!  
**Please be sure to share the above Project update with others at your agency.**

Questions? Contact Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen System David Jeffries at [dave@jeffriespsc.com](mailto:dave@jeffriespsc.com)

### **MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY**

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