



## **NEXT GENERATION PROJECT** **February 2020 Governing Board UPDATE:**

- **Customer Design Review**

The next key step in the Next Gen Project is approval of the Customer Design Review (CDR) process. The CDR package consist of 62 separate documents providing a fine level of design detail for the remainder of the Next Gen Project, including a Project Schedule that is currently being finalized. The next steps are to have the Next Gen Project Oversight Committee review and comment, followed by Governing Board consideration for approval. The exact timing of these two steps will be determined based on the Governing Board's decision on the use of AECOM to provide third-party review of CDR documents.

- **Coastal Commission Permitting**

There are three sites that require coastal permit approval: Point Reyes, Muir Beach, and Tomales. The Point Reyes application was approved by the California Coastal Commission on February 12, 2020. Both the Muir Beach and Tomales application are reviewed at the local level administered by the Marin County Community Development Agency (CDA) and both are scheduled for a Deputy Zoning Administrator hearing on Thursday February 27, 2020. If approved, there is a 8 business day appeal period to the Marin County Planning Commission. If there are no appeals, the approval will be sent to the California Coastal Commission where there will be an additional 10 business day appeal period with the California Coastal Commission. There is no California Coastal Commission meeting where these permits will be considered, but rather, the permits are posted on the website for the 10-day business appeal period. Here's an example:

[https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/assets/appealprojects/Statewide\\_Appealable\\_Projects\\_Report.pdf](https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/assets/appealprojects/Statewide_Appealable_Projects_Report.pdf)

- **Regional Cooperation**

MERA initiated a discussion with our regional partners via the Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communications System Authority (BayRICS) to plan ahead for identifying radios across systems in a Mutual Aid event. This capability is a new as part of our move to the Next Gen system in the 700/800 MHz bands. Working with BayRICS, the group has agreed to a scheme to develop regional radio aliases (The identifier for each individual radio that appears to dispatchers upon each transmission). This will allow dispatchers to immediately recognize the home county and discipline of a mutual aid unit transmitting in a mutual aid event. While other regional systems will be moving to this scheme, by completing this now, this will be part of our initial programming for Next Gen.

**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

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