Date: September 16, 2020

To: Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee

From: Richard Pearce, President — Matthew Hymel, Chair

MERA Governing Board — MERA Executive Board

Chief, Tiburon Fire Protection District — Marin County Administrator

Subject: Item B - Response to COC Informational Request

On June 17 the Measure A Citizen Oversight Committee had considerable discussion concerning the Project implementation transition from the County to MERA. As a result, your Committee requested that both MERA and the County respond to two specific questions. Our response is summarized below.

1. An understanding as to why the County was permitted an annual renewal of the Implementation Agreement versus being held to Project completion.

   Given the complexity and length of the Next Generation Project, it would have been difficult for either MERA or the County to commit to a set dollar amount contract with an uncertain duration. The County contract was based on reimbursement for services provided. Agreeing to a set contract duration would have resulted in either MERA or the County paying more or less than the services provided.

2. A written explanation from the County as to why the County chose not to renew the Implementation Agreement.

   As a member agency, the County is committed to do what is best for MERA and the Project. Prior to our notice there had been considerable discussion about the reporting structure of the Next Generation Project and the need for a more straightforward oversight and accountability. With the announced resignation of Ernest Klock, the long-term County Next Gen Project Director, the County thought it was more straightforward and ultimately better for MERA to directly oversee the implementation of the Project.

Although we understand the concerns that your Committee had concerning the transition of implementation services, we would like to assure your Committee and the public of our commitment to do what is best for our member agencies and the greater community. Both MERA and the County have worked collaboratively over the past several months to ensure that there is a smooth transition, and we are both working to deliver the Project as soon as it can be done effectively.