

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

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DATE: September 9, 2020
TO: MERA Executive Board
FROM: Betsy Swenerton, Acting Operations Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM C-4: Other Information Items

Discussion:

1. At the July meeting staff informed the Governing Board of DPW's intent to enter into an extended warranty agreement with Aviat Networks, the current microwave system vendor. DPW staff is currently working through the procurement process and hopes to have the extended warranty contract executed soon.
2. The MERA Operational Issues Working Group resumed regular monthly meetings via Zoom on August 5th to discuss topics including the NextGen Customer Design Review and Transition status; NextGen Radio Aliasing and Talkgroup templates; the NextGen Training Committee and the July and Year To Date Operations Report. The group met again on September 2 to discuss updates on the August 5th agenda items, and to review a recent equipment failure at the Prime Site, as described in item 3 below.
3. During the week of August 3rd, DPW staff noticed that a Channel Bank Wide Area Network Card had failed at the MERA Master Prime site. This specific card was transporting data for the simulcast voice traffic at the San Pedro MERA site. The failure required that technicians temporarily disable the San Pedro MERA site. DPW staff notified the County Dispatch Supervisor at the Communications Center that any deputies patrolling the China Camp area down to McNears Beach on North San Pedro Road would most likely experience poor or no signal. Fire agencies were also notified. DPW technicians were able to fully restore the site on August 13. DPW staff reviewed the issue in detail and brought it to the September Operational Issues Working Group Meeting. DPW Staff plans to bring this item to the MERA Governing Board at its September meeting.
4. Following on the July Governing Board approval of DPW's proposed FY 20/21 capital expenditures, DPW staff engaged HVAC contractors in a competitive selection process to replace the failing HVAC unit at the Big Rock site. A contractor has been selected, and the County is working with a consultant to analyze the heat loads at Big Rock to determine the size of the replacement HVAC equipment. The goal is to replace the HVAC unit before the end of October.