

**MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY**

c/o Town of Corte Madera  
300 Tamalpais Drive – Corte Madera, CA 94925  
PHONE: (415) 927-5050  
[WWW.MERAONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.MERAONLINE.ORG)

**DATE:** January 27, 2021  
**TO:** MERA Governing Board  
**FROM:** Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen Project  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM B-1: Report No 79 on Next Gen System Project

Recommended Action: Review, discuss and accept report.

Current Updates:

1) Recent Project Meetings and Conference Calls:

- a. MERA Project Calls: 12/21/20, 01/04/21, 01/18/21
- b. Implementation Project Team Calls: 12/15/20, 12/22/20, 12/29/20, 01/05/21, 01/13/21, 01/19/21, 01/26/21
- c. MERA Training Committee: 01/27/2021
- d. MERA Member Briefing: 01/26/2021, 01/28/2021

2) UHF-T Band Auction:

- a. In 2010, in a report for MERA, AECOM reviewed a number of options to update MERA that included staying on UHF-T Band, as well as moving to the 700/MHz band. AECOM recommended that MERA seek to move to the 700/800 MHz band at that time.
- b. In 2012, Congress passed the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, that in part required that we leave our UHF-T band frequencies to allow the Federal Government to sell those frequencies.
- c. This mandate became part of our messaging in support of Measure A funding in 2014.
- d. While it was never well defined, the legislation did provide an opportunity to seek reimbursement for the costs of relocating, funded by the sale proceeds. MERA never relied on this mechanism.
- e. In December 2020, Congress repealed the T-Band mandate, eliminating the requirement to relocate and terminating any opportunity to seek reimbursements for relocating to other bands.
- f. Based on the current status of the project. Seeking to stay on UHF-T band would take considerable time, effort and likely cost that would exacerbate the other MERA concerns about Gen I longevity, system loading, improving coverage and improving capacity as well as reduce the mutual aid benefits we will see with 700/800 MHz.

3) Training Committee

- a. The Training Committee has their first meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 01/27/21. A verbal update will be provided.

4) Digital Marin: MERA has been contacted by representatives of Digital Marin. If you become aware of any MERA related questions with this initiative, please contact Deputy Executive Officer Dave Jeffries.

5) Site Overview: Those sites and tasks indicated in green are completed, yellow is in progress.

As of: 01/27/2021	Pre-Bid Activities						Bids			Construct		Staging		Installation			
Site	CEQA	Coastal Comm.	MALT	PGE	Assoc. Leases	Leases	Bid Packages	Bids Out to Bid	Bids Awarded	Start	Complete	Motorola	Nokia	Start	Complete	Accept	
EOF	Green					Green	Green										
Civic Center	Green					Green	Green										
Big Rock	Green					Yellow	Yellow										
Mt. Tamalpais	Green					Green	Yellow										
Mt. Barnabe	Green					Green	Green										
Point Reyes	Green	Green				Yellow	Yellow										
Dollar Hill	Green					Green	Yellow										
San Pedro	Green					Yellow	Yellow										
Tiburon	Green					Green	Yellow										
Sonoma Mount.	Green					Yellow	Yellow										
Stewart Point	Green					Green	Yellow										
Tomales	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow										
Coyote Peak	Green		Green	Green		Yellow	Yellow										
Skyview Terrace	Green			Green		Yellow	Yellow										
Muir Beach	Green	Green		Green		Yellow	Yellow										
Wolfback Ridge	Green			Green		Yellow	Yellow										
OTA	Green					Yellow	Yellow										
Mill Valley	Green			Yellow		Yellow	Yellow										
	Green	Completed				Yellow	In progress			Grey	N/A		Pending				

6) Key Project Summary Details:

a. Construction Bid Packages:

i. Bid Package #1 has been released for potential bids. Schedule is to have a recommendation to the Governing Board on 02/24/21.

ii. Bid Package #1a is on today's agenda for Governing Board approval to release.

b. Tomales Site: MERA has reached an agreement with AT&T to share a power trench at Tomales. See GB Report B-2 for details.

c. Member Briefings held 01/26 and 01/28/2021

7) Project Summary Table:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Tasks Completed</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bid Package #1 released for bid.</li> <li>2. Bid Package #1a ready for GB approval.</li> <li>3. Five of Six PG&amp;E agreements completed.</li> <li>4. Tomales Power Trench Agreement reached.</li> <li>5. Initiated Training Committee meetings.</li> <li>6. Newsletter released in December.</li> <li>7. Member Briefings being held this week.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Upcoming Tasks</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bid Awards for Dollar, Mt. Tiburon and Stewart Point. (Bid Package #1a)</li> <li>2. Start Civil Work – EOF, Civic Center, Mt Barnabe, Dollar Hill.</li> <li>3. Newsletter</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Tasks in Progress</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Obtain MALT Easements.</li> <li>2. Complete PG&amp;E Agreements.</li> <li>3. Complete Site Lease Agreements.</li> <li>4. Develop Talkgroup Templates and Radio Aliases.</li> <li>5. Develop Project Plan with AECOM.</li> <li>6. Bid Awards – EOF, Civic Center, Mt. Barnabe.</li> <li>7. Mobile Installation / Portable Distribution from AFG Grant.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Next Six Months</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bid Awards – Wolfback Ridge, Mt Tamalpais, Pt Reyes, Sonoma Mt, OTA, Coyote Peak #1 and #2, San Pedro, Big Rock and Tomales.</li> <li>2. Start Civil Work – Dollar, Mt. Tiburon and Stewart Point.</li> <li>3. Customer Witness Tests – Nokia Microwave and Motorola Fixed Network Equipment.</li> </ol>

Attachment:

B-1a – Report No 78 – Next Gen System Project (E.B. 01/13/21)