

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

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DATE: February 17, 2021
TO: MERA Finance Committee
FROM: Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen Project
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM D: Review of Funding Options for Next Gen Project Non-Public Safety Radios.

Recommended Action: Review and recommend strategies for funding.

Introduction

One of the budget related items that the Governing Board reviewed at their December 2020 meeting was the funding of the base, mobile and portable radios destined for the Non-Public Safety users.

When developing the funding mechanism for the Next Gen System, the legal basis for the Parcel Tax limited funding to Public Safety purposes, such as Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Services. The intent has been to fund the remaining radios out of the MERA Replacement Account (Fund #70036).

As described below, because of a recent calculation of the costs for the Non-Public Safety radios has caused concerns based on the current state of the MERA Replacement Fund and the potential to also need those funds for Gen I maintenance issues until the Next Gen System is activated for all users in 2023.

Review of Vendor Radios

This line item from our Budget Summary document has included Mobile, Portable and Base Radios with their related accessories for the Next Gen system for all users.

As of 09/08/2020, this line item was budgeted at \$11,993,316 with expenditures at \$219,072. In addition, the budget summary included an estimated contribution from the Replacement Fund for the non-public safety radios of \$1,000,000. This non-public safety amount had been viewed as a place holder figure until further calculations were completed.

Based on my review of line-item costs and quantities from the recently completed Field Survey, I estimate the total cost of the Next Gen Mobiles, Portables and Base radios with accessories and a 5% contingency at \$14,240,377.98. Of this, the Measure A Parcel Tax portion is \$10,028,883.40 and the Non-Measure A portion is \$4,211,494.98. (See attachment D-1)

To better track these Public Safety and Non-Public Safety radios, the Governing Board agreed that the existing Line Item #2 – Vendor Radios be limited to Public Safety Radios and that the Non-Public Safety Radios and their funding sources be tracked separately.

MERA Fund # 70036 is projected to be \$3,975,583 on 06/30/2021.

Attachments:

D-1 Vendor Radio Estimates