



Governing Board Communication

**TO: MERA Governing Board**  
**FROM: Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen System**  
**SUBJECT: Report # 117 on the Next Gen System (Accept Report)**

Recommended Action: For information or discussion only

Background:

- 1) Recent Project Meetings and Conference Calls
  - a. MERA Executive Staff Calls: Bi-Weekly
  - b. Motorola / Next Gen Staff Calls: Weekly
  - c. Construction Calls: Weekly
  - d. Fleetmapping Calls: Weekly
  - e. Hexagon/Mach Alert Calls: Weekly
  - f. IP Networking Calls: Weekly
  
- 2) Project Schedule: The following is based on the draft schedule dated 01/22/2024.

Description	04/28/22 Baseline	09/14/23 Update	01/22/24 Update
Site Work and Tower Turnover	09/25/2023	12/29/2023	02/09/2024
P25 Installation – Complete	09/08/2023	05/14/2024	04/04/2024
Microwave Install, Optimize and Test	10/13/2023	05/09/2024	04/08/2024
Perform System Functional Testing	12/11/2023	08/09/2024	06/14/2024
Perform CATP (Coverage Testing)	03/14/2024	09/25/2024	07/03/2024
Dispatch Site Installations – Complete	04/16/2024	06/06/2024	06/26/2024
Field User Cutover – Complete	05/01/2024	10/10/2024	10/03/2024
Final System Acceptance	10/08/2024	06/30/2025	06/25/2025

- 3) Bid Packages:
  - a. BP-1/1A/2: Construction, MSI LMR and Microwave installations complete, except Tiburon MW.
  - b. BP-3: Status – Construction punch list for al sites in progress
    - i. Skyview: Complete
    - ii. Mill Valley: Beneficial Occupancy expected by 02/23)
      - 1. MW and LMR pending.
    - iii. Wolfback: Beneficial Occupancy to MSI issued.
      - 1. MW complete, MSI LMR by 03/01.
    - iv. Tomales: Beneficial Occupancy to MSI issued.
      - 1. MW completed, MSI LMR completing 02/23/24.
  - c. BP-4: Status

- i. Coyote Peak: Beneficial Occupancy to MSI issued.
  - 1. Fence work pending.
  - 2. MSI LMR complete. MW scheduled for 03/16/24.
- ii. OTA: Beneficial Occupancy to MSI issued.
  - 1. Final electrical due this week.
  - 2. MSI LMR complete. MW completing.
- iii. Muir Beach: Beneficial Occupancy to MSI issued.
  - 1. Shelter installed.
  - 2. MW and MSI LMR scheduled for 02/27/24,
- iv. Pt Reyes: Beneficial Occupancy to MSI issued.
  - 1. MW and MSI LMR completed.
- v. Mt Tamalpais: Beneficial Occupancy to MSI issued.
  - 1. Tower/Stub tower work completing 02/23/24.
  - 2. MSI LMR 03/08/24. MW scheduled for 03/07/24

4) Site Overview:

As of: 02/19/2024	Pre-Construction				Construction		Motorola					
	Pre-Bid Activity	Bid Packages	Bids Out to Bid	Bids Awarded	Start	Complete	Staging	Shelters	Towers	Microwave	Accept	
Site												
EOF		#1										
Civic Center		#1										
Big Rock		#2										
Mt. Tam.		#4										
Mt. Barnabe		#1										
Point Reyes		#4										
Dollar Hill		#1A										
San Pedro		#2										
Tiburon		#1A										
Sonoma Mt.		#2										
Stewarts Pt.		#1A										
Tomales		#3										
Coyote Peak		#4										
Skyview Terr.		#3										
Muir Beach		#4										
Wolfback Rdg.		#3										
OTA		#4										
Mill Valley		#3										
		Completed						In progress				

Below is the same project tracker from two years ago.

As of: 02/13/2022	Pre-Bid Activities						Bids			Construct		Staging		Installation		
	CEQA	Coastal Comm.	MALT	PGE	Assoc. Leases	Leases	Bid Packages	Bids Out to Bid	Bids Awarded	Start	Complete	Motorola	Nokia	Start	Complete	Accept
Site																
EOF							#1									
Civic Center							#1									
Big Rock							#2									
Mt. Tam.							#3									
Mt. Barnabe							#1									
Point Reyes							#3									
Dollar Hill							#1A									
San Pedro							#2									
Tiburon							#1A									
Sonoma Mt.							#2									
Stewarts Pt.							#1A									
Tomales							#5									
Coyote Peak							#5									
Skyview Terr.							#4									
Muir Beach							#4									
Wolfback Rdg.							#3									
OTA							#3									
Mill Valley							#4									
		Completed					In progress				N/A		Pending			

5) Key Project Summary Details:

- a. Code Plugs
  - i. Motorola developing Code Plugs for NG radios.
- b. Connectivity (Dispatch, FSA, Wi-Fi)
  - i. Pilot program: EOF, NPD, FFX and SRF connected. Network testing this week.
- c. Connectivity Project: In discussion with Fire agencies on FSA connectivity. FSA will work on an RF link as it does today until IP connections are implemented. Working on wi-fi programming alternatives.
- d. Microwave Network – Installations in progress.
- e. End User Training – MSI provided Train the Trainer for Dispatch Console Administration, Dispatch Console Operator and Mobile/Portable Radio operations last week. Training Committee to follow up with deliverables.

- f. Technician Training: 1 class completed, 2 in classes in March, 2 classes in May and 2 classes in June. Attendees are the DPW Communications Division staff.
- g. FCC Licenses:
  - i. FCC Microwave Construction Licenses are set to expire 04/30/24.
  - ii. FCC LMR Construction Licenses are set to expire 02/29/24. An extension request to 04/30/24 has been filed.
- h. Cutover Plan – MERA and MSI staff met on 02/26 to begin drafting a plan to manage the cutover of all the radios, Fire Station Alerting, Dispatch Centers and volunteer pagers.

6) Project Summary Table:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Tasks Completed</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construction, except for punchlist items.</li> <li>2. Dispatch and End User Train the Trainer.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Upcoming Tasks</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fire Station Alerting – Final Installs</li> <li>2. Logging Recorder Plan development</li> <li>3. Completing and testing Code plugs</li> <li>4. Developing Training materials</li> <li>5. Connect M/W and bring up RF sites</li> <li>6. Remaining vehicle installations and mobile radio programming.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Tasks in Progress</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receive Radio Order. Several pallets of radios received so far.</li> <li>2. Develop Cutover Plan.</li> <li>3. Fire Station Alerting – Cold Install in progress.</li> <li>4. Microwave and LMR Installations</li> <li>5. Complete Construction Punchlists</li> <li>6. Jail DAS System</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Next Six Months</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete End User training program</li> <li>2. Prepare for Cutover</li> <li>3. Portable radio programming.</li> </ol>

7) New Construction Change Orders for Bid Package #3 and #4:  
 Currently reviewing final change orders for BP-3 for the 03/27 GB meeting. BP-4 change orders should be completed by the 04/24 GB meeting.

8) Construction Support Vendors:

As part of monitoring the construction project and MERA's ability to self-permit and inspect work, MERA hired a variety of firms to perform that work. As construction nears its end, we are reviewing each contract and can safely close a third contracts at this time, Dudek, that was providing environmental support. We anticipate releasing additional funds at the March and April Governing Board meetings. The remaining funds in the Dudek agreement are: \$10,477.39.

9) Media Coverage

- a. Muir Beach Beachcomber Article: See below
- b. Marin IJ: Article in progress.

10) Questions and issues regarding the Next Gen System should be referred to Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen System Dave Jeffries.



### Marin Emergency Radio Authority Update

*Submitted by Janet Tumpich*

According to Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer at Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA), "We have been stalled for a while in delivering the equipment shelter that because of the route along SR1 requires a CalTrans and CHP permit and CHP escort. It took a couple of months."

On Thursday, 01/25/24, the shelter arrived at the Muir Beach site. Dave explains that "after the shelter is in place, there will be some wiring and connections and then Motorola and Nokia will schedule times to install their equipment in the shelter and on the monopole.

The shelter will contain the radio and microwave equipment needed to provide coverage in the Muir Beach area and portions of the coast for law enforcement, fire and public works agencies.

The brown pole you see to the right will hold our radio antennas and you can see our generator back up (white box) to PG&E power at the back left.

This is one of 18 sites that support the county-wide system, and we anticipate having all of our radio users on the new system in October 2024."

*— Dave Jeffries*

*MERA Communications Shelter being placed at the Muir Beach site. Photo by Dave Jeffries*