



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

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PATRICK J. MALLON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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TO: LA-RICS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: PATRICK J. MALLON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Development of New RFP

Following your meeting of July 28th, staff assembled and aggressively commenced preparation of a new RFP. The staff effort in this respect is moving swiftly and the cooperation has been phenomenal. I have set a deadline of returning to your Board and seeking approval for the RFP on September 1, 2011.

Development of Site List

Additionally, as the development proceeds, staff has been considering an alternative which we feel will dramatically reduce the time required for a new Technical Evaluation and will also shorten the period for financial and contractual negotiations. Based on new coverage analyses, staff is undertaking the task of narrowing the site list to be provided to prospective vendors in the new RFP. The result will be the identification of a reduced number of sites our communications experts are confident will provide viable communications coverage. It is important to emphasize, we are scrubbing the original site list prepared by project staff and not any list of sites proposed by either vendor in the prior process.

Additionally, early identification of sites will allow parallel activities in pursuing improvements at an earlier stage of the project. Staff will be physically visiting each site to verify the type of antenna, including height, at the installation. Some members of the Authority have responded to a preliminary list released previously with alternative sites within their City. We will include consideration of these sites as we develop the list. We are particularly interested in any City-owned sites that have capacity to support the required technology.

Early Identification of Transmitter Site and Improvements

With the early identification of sites and an evaluation by our telecommunications staff, we can determine what improvements will be required. We are looking forward to and will be working with the Public Works Department to assist in the procurement of an Architect/Engineering firm to begin the design for site improvements. We know which sites should be primary to any system design and know the current condition of those sites. We know that new transmitter towers will be required at some sites, as well as equipment shelters. The environmental assessment process, which must be completed prior to the physical implementation of the project, will be expedited to the extent that sites are identified as soon as possible.

RFP Development and Participation by JPA Members

At your July 28th meeting, interest in staff participation was indicated by members of your Board. If any entity represented by your Board is willing to contribute staff, we will put them to work. It is time critical to incorporate those interested parties immediately. Lastly, an addition to the team at mid-stream may be counterproductive to our aggressive schedule.

Evaluation Team Composition

One of the most time consuming tasks encountered in the previous process, and we certainly expect the task ahead to be critical, is the evaluation of proposals. Only this time, we have scheduled only 4 weeks, not 5–6 months. It is imperative that we determine the evaluation team composition within the next few weeks to facilitate training and be ready to immediately embark on the task once the proposal window has closed. Board members should consider this task of the highest priority, and be willing to commit evaluators from their agency full-time for the duration of the evaluation period.

Additionally, we will need to determine the composition of the negotiations team. Again, full-time commitment will be required. To expedite the process, the negotiation team should be small, but representative of the Authority's composition. Your direction will be appreciated.

CEQA/NEPA Analysis/RFQ

In order for your Board to ultimately approve the project and award construction contracts for project build-out, your Board must consider and approve an environmental assessment that fully complies with the federal and state environmental laws, NEPA and CEQA. We are working with the Department of Public Works and County Counsel to finalize a Request for Qualifications for an Environmental Consultant to produce the required environmental reports and findings. Such services can be funded by UASI and BTOP grants. We anticipate bringing the RFQ to your Board for approval on September 1, 2011.

Project Management/RFQ

To continue to move this project forward we will need a full spectrum of project management services. The project management provider will coordinate the delivery of the telecommunications system design, identification and mitigation of environmental concerns, scheduling and oversee the design and construction of site improvements, and ultimately, the delivery, installation and commissioning of the voice radio and data communications system. Again, we are working with the Department of Public Works in the development of the RFP. We have received a draft document, prepared comments and will be finalizing the scope of work. Funding for PM services is available in UASI and BTOP grants. We anticipate bringing the RFP for PM services to your Board at your October meeting.

Schedule

The schedule of our activities in turning out and delivering a telecommunications project to your Board will be included in the report under Agenda Item #4.

Outreach to Washington DC

Chairman Bill Fujioka and Board Member Leroy Baca are scheduled to meet with representatives of the Federal Communications Commission regarding radio frequency licenses and the Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) regarding the BTOP grant on Monday, August 15th in Washington, DC.

PJM