



# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**LOS ANGELES REGIONAL  
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY**

**Thursday, February 5, 2026 • 9:00 a.m.**

LA-RICS Headquarters  
2525 Corporate Pl., Suite 200,  
Large Conference Room  
Monterey Park, CA 91754

## **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Michael Alegria**, Fire Chief, Los Angeles Area Fire Chief's Association

**Joshua Nelson**, City Manager (City of Industry) California Contract Cities Association

**Ric Walczak**, Police Chief, At-Large Seat #3 (City of Covina Police Department)

## **ALTERNATES FOR BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Leslie Luke**, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office

**Nicholas Berkuta**, Assistant Fire Chief, County of Los Angeles Area Fire Department

**Marshall Yelverton**, Captain, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

**Jacqueline Rifenberg**, Assistant Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services

**Gustavo Jimenez**, Police Captain (Monterey Park), Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association

**Cardell Hurt**, Police Captain, At-Large Seat #2 (City of Inglewood Police Department)

## **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT / VACANT**

**Brandon Coatney**, Deputy Fire Chief, At-Large Seat #4, (City of La Verne Fire Department)

## **OFFICERS PRESENT**

**Scott Edson**, LA-RICS Executive Director

**Laura Vasquez**, LA-RICS Board Secretary



**NOTE: ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM IDENTIFIED ON THE AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Alternate Board Chair Nicholas Berkuta called the Regular meeting of the Board to order at 9:00 a.m.

**II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL**

LA-RICS Project Team Member Marissa Bosque took roll call and acknowledged a quorum was present.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)**

**A. January 8, 2026 – Regular Minutes**

Agenda Item A

Alternate Board Chair Berkuta asked the Board if there were any questions to the attached Regular meeting minutes for February 5, 2026; hearing none, he called for a motion to approve.

Member Ric Walczak motioned first, seconded by Alternate Board Member Marshall Yelverton.

Ayes (8): Alegria, Nelson, Walczak, Berkuta, Yelverton, Rifenberg, Jimenez, and Hurt.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no consent items on the Regular Meeting Agenda.



## VI. REPORTS (B - D)

### B. Director's Report – Scott Edson

Executive Director Scott Edson greeted the Board and reported that LA-RICS started the regularly planned preventative maintenance to the LMR system for 2026, and this was the typical yearly preventative maintenance of base stations, generators, batteries, heating / ventilation / air conditioning (HVAC), and other infrastructure components. Executive Director Edson further reported there would also be a major upgrade for the cores scheduled around the third quarter of this year, and after the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup. Executive Director Edson went on to say this major upgrade was part of LA-RICS' System Upgrade Agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI) and other third-party equipment providers; this upgrade would bring the LA-RICS' operating system to an ASTRO 2024 release version. Executive Director Edson mentioned the LA-RICS system was on a 2021 release.

Executive Director Edson stated this major upgrade might also impact the subscriber agencies that operate dispatch console equipment, either MSI or non-MSI, and some agencies would be impacted more by this upgrade, depending on the hardware models and vintage. Executive Director Edson further stated that MSI assured LA-RICS that subscriber agencies on the LMR system were also under the System Upgrade Agreement with MSI for their equipment upgrades; therefore, with proper preplanning and coordination, there should be no issues.

Executive Director Edson went on to say that LA-RICS was also in the process of coordinating with subscribing agencies to conduct yearly testing of the emergency alarm from subscriber radios for those agencies that utilize LA-RICS' Digital Trunked Voice Radio Subsystem (DTVRS) for that emergency capability; this would ensure the radios, consoles, and the system handle such calls in a manner that is consistent with the agencies' expectations and the emergency call processes.

Executive Director Edson reported that for the upcoming FIFA World Cup, LA-RICS was working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the City of Inglewood, the host city, and other agencies for a communications plan. Executive Director Edson further reported that LA-RICS was also working with FIFA and DHS on conflicting spectrum interference issues. Executive Director Edson went on to say that as part of that working group, the County of Los Angeles (County), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), would also be resolving interference findings if



there are unauthorized transmitters impacting LA-RICS' frequencies during the World Cup events.

Regarding Budget, Executive Director Edson shared that as the Authority staff continued to track expenditures against LA-RICS' Operations and Maintenance Agreements with MSI and the County Internal Services Department (ISD), LA-RICS was approaching the conclusion of its second year of standard Operations and Maintenance and the corresponding costs. Executive Director Edson said that as he mentioned to the Board in the January meeting, the Budget team was tracking expenditures closely and forecasting potential savings that were not attributed to delays filling vacancies via the County hiring process.

Executive Director Edson stated that, additionally, as stated in the California Wildfires Straight-Line Winds After Action Report, it was critical that situational awareness and interoperability are aligned across County departments and agencies, that we update obsolete systems and technology, and enable all emergency response communications to leverage the LA-RICS LMR System and ensure consistent implementation, training, and use of tools and the system. Executive Director Edson further stated that given this recommendation and LA-RICS' strong advocacy for all users to migrate to LA-RICS, the migration of County users to LA-RICS was also anticipated, and this would impact not only interoperable communications but also subscription revenue and potentially lower the countywide subscription rate.

Executive Director Edson shared this year's budget projections identified estimated savings in this Fiscal Year, and LA-RICS would take a discussion item to the Finance Committee to recommend a policy to address both budget shortfall and surplus to the Board. Executive Director Edson requested the Board to ensure their designated representatives attend this important Finance Committee Meeting and make certain they receive the details that would help inform the Board on this policy item for the next Board meeting.

Regarding Grants, Executive Director Edson reported the final claim was submitted ahead of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) 2023 grant deadline, which funded the critical interconnection scope connecting all standalone radio systems to LA-RICS in accordance with the hub-and-spoke model. Executive Director Edson further reported that LA-RICS continued to urge the City of Los Angeles, MSI, and the regional stakeholders to ensure that interoperable communications maintain their place as a priority in the region. Executive Director Edson went on to say that LA-RICS shared a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that the



LA-RICS Project Team and Joint Operations and Technical Ad-Hoc Committee drafted in hopes of finalizing the SOP.

Executive Director Edson stated the engineering and technical connections were one step closer to interoperability, however, the policies and procedures the various agencies would implement were also critical in carrying out successful and seamless communications when needed. Executive Director Edson mentioned that for those on the Board whose agencies served on these working groups managed by the Mayor's office, it would be helpful if they worked with LA-RICS in urging these agencies to finalize the SOPs and implement necessary training and collaboration needed before the World Cup.

Executive Director Edson shared there were grant dollars awarded to the Mayor's Office for the management and administration of the regional grant, and those funds should be utilized to benefit the region through this critical milestone.

Regarding Contracts, Executive Director Edson was happy to report that since the Board approved execution of the agreement for ESChat in July 2025, LA-RICS met with the existing LA-RICS Subscriber Agencies to identify the users that would benefit from this Push-to-Talk capability extended to smartphones. Executive Director Edson reported the LA-RICS team began the roll out of the same and were excited to provide this value-added service to their subscribers while looking forward to the flexibility this would provide LA-RICS users as they utilized this carrier agnostic commercial upgrade IP-based Push-to-Talk between users on different wireless carriers over the LMR System. Executive Director Edson mentioned that Operations Lead Lt. Joseph F. Dominguez would provide additional detail under Agenda Item F – Outreach Update.

Executive Director Edson informed the Board that LA-RICS' Technical Lead Ted Pao announced his retirement as he approached forty (40) years of County service. Executive Director Edson said that accolades would be reserved for a later meeting that was closer to his retirement date planned for June of this year. Executive Director Edson shared that LA-RICS would release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Professional Services Agreement for his replacement while, in parallel, canvas the County for a potential candidate.

Executive Director Edson said that LA-RICS would release the RFP in accordance with County procurement policies and would be sure to share that RFP with the Board once it was released, so they could share it with prospective candidates. This concluded the report on Agenda Item B by Executive Director Edson. There was no further discussion.



**C. Joint Operations and Technical Committee Chair's Report – Lt. Joseph F. Dominguez**

Operations Lead Lt. Joseph F. Dominguez greeted the Board and shared that he chaired the Joint Operations and Technical Committee that was held on January 20, 2026; the minutes were approved, and there were no public comments or items on the consent calendar.

Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez reported that Technical Lead Pao presented the Regional Interoperability Update report which consisted of the status of the LMR system and LA-RICS' continued efforts to advance interoperability with their partner agencies. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez further reported that progress was being made with the execution of County Subscriber and Affiliate Agreements with several agencies across the County. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez went on to say the Committees were informed that several agencies updated their regional channels, and several other agencies were in the process of updating their code plugs. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez shared that he informed the Committees that Authority staff continued to be involved in the World Cup Emergency Communications Planning meetings and remained engaged in meetings and discussions regarding interoperability for the 2028 Olympics.

Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez shared details of Technical Lead Pao's report to the Committees which included the challenges and concerns that arose in the last two (2) months of 2025, in which heavy rain events caused erosion issues, power outages, and other operational challenges at some sites; Authority staff worked diligently to address these issues causing minimal impact to LA-RICS' operations. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez said that Technical Lead Pao reported that almost eight thousand six hundred (8,600) hours of generator runtime were accumulated in 2025, and these hours did not include scheduled exercise runtime and the two (2) sites that were powered by rental generators.

Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez shared that Technical Lead Pao also presented to the Committees the "Hub and Spoke" diagram of the Inter RF Subsystem Interface (ISSI) connections to the City of Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Interagency Communications Interoperability (ICI), Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), Port of Los Angeles, San Bernardino County, City of Long Beach, and Cal OES. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez further shared that the Committees were also given a presentation on GenWatch, which was a subscriber radio location service that allowed radios to send their locations to the core, and these locations were displayed on a mapping system.



Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez reported that there were no administrative matters at the January Joint Operations and Technical Committee meeting.

This concluded the report on Agenda Item C by Operations Lead Lt. Domingez. There was no further discussion.

**D. Finance Committee Chair's Report – NONE**

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS (E – F)**

**E. Land Mobile Radio Network Operations Status and Issues – Ted Pao**

Technical Lead Ted Pao greeted the Board and shared the unusually mild weather in what was typically a rainy January allowed LA-RICS to address and recover from some of the damage caused by the November and December storms. Technical Lead Pao further shared that the tower crew successfully cleared water intrusion from connectors and cables, and a defective antenna was identified and replaced. Technical Lead Pao went on to say that, in addition, several non-RF repairs were completed, including work on generators, HVAC systems and power infrastructure.

Technical Lead Pao reported that utility power had largely stabilized, and aside from a few unplanned outages and routine maintenance-related interruptions, there were no extended outages across the LMR sites. Technical Lead Pao mentioned that, however, LA-RICS would have to work with the Southern California Air Quality Management District for the extended runtime of generators from the end of the previous year when power poles were damaged by excessive rainwater runoffs.

Technical Lead Pao stated the favorable weather also enabled LA-RICS to complete the power installation at site Burnt Peak (BUR1), and the utility feed was extended to the roadway where Southern California Edison (SCE) would make the final connection once the solar plant was completed. Technical Lead Pao further stated that the work was inspected and approved by SCE pending only a minor signage color correction. Technical Lead Pao expressed LA-RICS' optimism that permanent power would be in place by the end of the first quarter.

Technical Lead Pao expressed that, unfortunately, there was no positive update regarding road access as scheduled road repairs for site Whitaker Middle Peak (WMP) had been delayed due to the Los Angeles County Department of Public



Works' resources being redirected to address extensive storm-related washouts in the Antelope Valley region. Technical Lead Pao further expressed that this delay may result in additional costs due to limited equipment availability. Technical Lead Pao stated that at site Pine Mountain (PMT), both the second and third alternate access routes were blocked by rockslides and debris, leaving no passable access routes.

Technical Lead Pao shared a slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 1), which reflected statistics for January's analog conventional channels with TRO8, also known as the D3 and related command channels primarily for the San Gabriel Valley area as the busiest with over nineteen thousand (19,000) Push-to-Talks.

Technical Lead Pao shared a second slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 2), which showed the top ten (10) analog channels by Push-to-Talk count with the dispatch channels showing as the busiest.

Technical Lead Pao shared a third slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 3), which reflected the January conventional Push-to-Talks by cell. Technical Lead Pao mentioned this chart was inclusive of all analog channels, including the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications Subsystem (LARTCS) activities for January.

Technical Lead Pao shared a fourth slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 4), which showed the Digital Trunked Voice Radio Subsystem (DTVRS) cell activities. Technical Lead Pao pointed out that the Downtown 700 MHz cell was the most active cell by far, with almost twenty thousand (20,000) more minutes than the second busiest cell, which was the South 700 cell.

Technical Lead Pao shared a fifth slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 5), which reflected the call count for the top fifteen (15) DTVRS cell use for January. Technical Lead Pao mentioned that since the Downtown 700 cell had the most minutes from the previous slide, it also had the most calls processed for January at three hundred eighty-three thousand two hundred and sixty-nine (383,269) calls.

Technical Lead Pao shared a sixth slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 6), which showed Inglewood PD leading the way with the most DTVRS talk time groups; the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) Men's Central Jail (MCJ) had the second busiest talk group. Technical Lead Pao mentioned the LASD custody sites, such as Men's Central Jail (MCJ), Twin Tower Correctional Facility (TTCF), Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF), and along with the first LASD Lancaster station local tactical (LTAC) as the next group with busiest talktime



minutes following Inglewood PD. Technical Lead Pao further mentioned that Palos Verdes Estates PD was in sixth place as far as top ten talk time minutes for the DTVRS talk groups.

The final slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 7) that Technical Lead Pao shared was the DTVRS Top Agency Use for January, which included the Palos Verdes Estates PD, University of California Los Angeles PD, and the City of Claremont PD.

Executive Director Edson pointed out that LASD, for the most part, did not use the LA-RICS dispatch channels. Executive Director Edson noted that LASD was using the LA-RICS tactical channels, which was one reason why the Inglewood PD and Palos Verdes Estates PD main dispatch channels were higher; dispatch channels are much busier than tactical channels. Executive Director Edson mentioned that he believed, eventually, that LASD would lead the way as the top agency to use DTVRS channels as the dispatch talk groups are implemented.

Alternate Board Member Hurt asked Executive Director Edson how Inglewood PD could get more Push-to-Talk traffic. Executive Director Edson said law enforcement had to use it more to communicate; Inglewood PD was most likely making good use of the Computer-Aided Dispatch system.

Alternate Chair Berkuta congratulated Technical Lead Pao on his pending retirement and for his work establishing the ISSI connections. Alternate Chair Berkuta asked Technical Lead Pao if LA-RICS started to engage with Orange County since the ISSI connections were established. Technical Lead Pao stated that LA-RICS planned to have discussions with Orange County and welcomed the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's (LACoFD) participation in those discussions. Alternate Chair Berkuta confirmed that LACoFD was interested in being involved in those discussions.

Executive Director Edson mentioned to Alternate Chair Berkuta that LA-RICS was focused on achieving interoperability within the Los Angeles region before the large upcoming events such as the World Cup and the 2028 Olympics, then LA-RICS would focus on making connections outside of the Los Angeles region.

This concluded the update on Agenda Item E. There was no further discussion.

Alternate Board Member Leslie Luke joined the Board Meeting at 9:22 a.m. during the following Outreach Update.



**F. Outreach Update – Lieutenant Joseph F. Dominguez**

Operations Lead Lieutenant Joseph F. Dominguez greeted Board members and reported that during the month of January, the Authority staff continued comprehensive outreach efforts with both Subscriber and Affiliate agencies while simultaneously supporting multiple operational initiatives. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez further reported the Authority staff remained actively engaged in providing on-site escorts for facilities requiring inspections and maintenance, ensuring continued system integrity and operational compliance.

Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez went on to say that outreach activities had proven effective in strengthening partnerships and expanding engagement among public safety stakeholders. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez stated that agencies supported during this period included the City of Compton Public Safety (Subscription Agreement), Beverly Hills Unified School District (Subscription Agreement), United States Air Force (Affiliate Agreement), City of Maywood Public Safety (Subscription Agreement), Los Angeles County Probation Department (Subscription Agreement), and the Los Angeles School Police (Affiliate Agreement).

Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez shared the Authority staff initiated the rollout of ESChat to users operating on the LA-RICS system. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez explained that ESChat was a secure, enterprise-grade Push-to-Talk communication application that enabled the use of mobile devices for radio communications over cellular networks. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez said the implementation of ESChat was intended to strengthen real-time communications, enhance interagency coordination, and improve overall operational effectiveness. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez stated that this platform served as a scalable and reliable supplement to traditional radio systems, supporting improved connectivity across geographically dispersed operations.

Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez mentioned the Subscriber agencies that had been programmed, granted access, and began utilizing the ESChat application which were the following: City of Lancaster PD, Rio Hondo College PD, Cerritos College PD, City of Norwalk PD, City of Duarte PD, Palos Verdes Estates PD, City of Avalon PD, California State University, Los Angeles PD, Beverly Hills Unified School District PD, and Claremont PD. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez mentioned that positive feedback regarding ESChat was received from these agencies.



Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez stated that Authority staff met with representatives of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) PD to address access and security concerns related to the UCLA Factor Building site, and as a result of this meeting, security enhancements were implemented, and plans were underway to install additional signage as a proactive and preventative measure. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez further stated that further discussions included the potential installation of electronic door locking systems with card-reader access to enhance controlled entry and improve overall site security. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez went on to say that Authority staff would continue to collaborate with UCLA PD to evaluate these improvements and identify additional measures to ensure the safety and integrity of the facility.

Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez reported that Authority staff conducted a comprehensive site visit to Pine Mountain (PMT) to assess challenges related to road access for maintenance and security operations. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez further reported that recent heavy rains rendered access difficult due to washouts and debris flow, and Authority staff would evaluate options for clearing the debris and explore alternative methods of reaching the site to ensure continued operational support. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez mentioned these efforts would focus on restoring reliable access to the site to facilitate ongoing maintenance and security operations. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez noted that despite site access challenges, the site remained operational.

Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez shared that Authority staff actively participated in multiple meetings and maintained ongoing coordination with the LAPD to establish reliable communications between the LAPD and LA-RICS agencies. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez further shared that a follow up meeting was scheduled for February 19 to explore alternative methods to connect with LAPD; their communications system had experienced operational challenges. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez went on to say these efforts underscored the commitment to ensuring seamless interagency communication and enhancing regional public safety coordination.

Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez stated the Authority staff remained directly engaged in World Cup Emergency Communications Planning and the 2028 Olympics coordination. Operations Lead Lt. Dominguez further stated that Authority staff met with state and federal partners to ensure interoperability and strengthen regional public safety communications and to support seamless operations and overall event security.

This concluded the update on Agenda Item F. There was no further discussion.



**VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – NONE**

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE**

There were no Miscellaneous Items for the Regular Meeting.

**X. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE BOARD**

There were no Future Discussion and/or Action Items for the Regular Meeting.

**XI. CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

The Chair proceeded with the Closed Session item on the Regular Meeting Agenda.

The Board entered Closed Session at 9:25 a.m.

1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION [Government Code Section 54957(b)(a)] Title: Executive Director

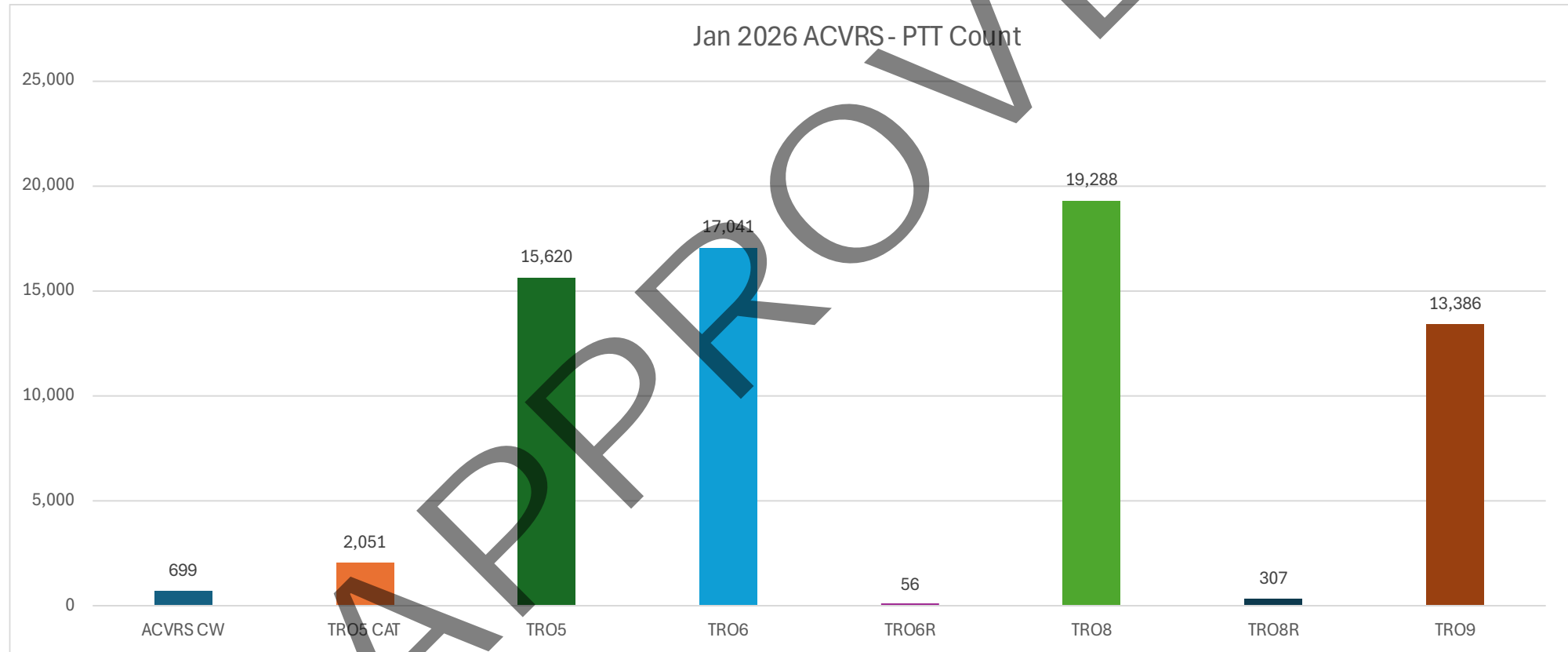
The Board returned from Closed Session at 9:35 a.m. Counsel Truc Moore stated the Board was back in Open Session, and the Brown Act did not require a report.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR MEETING AND NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

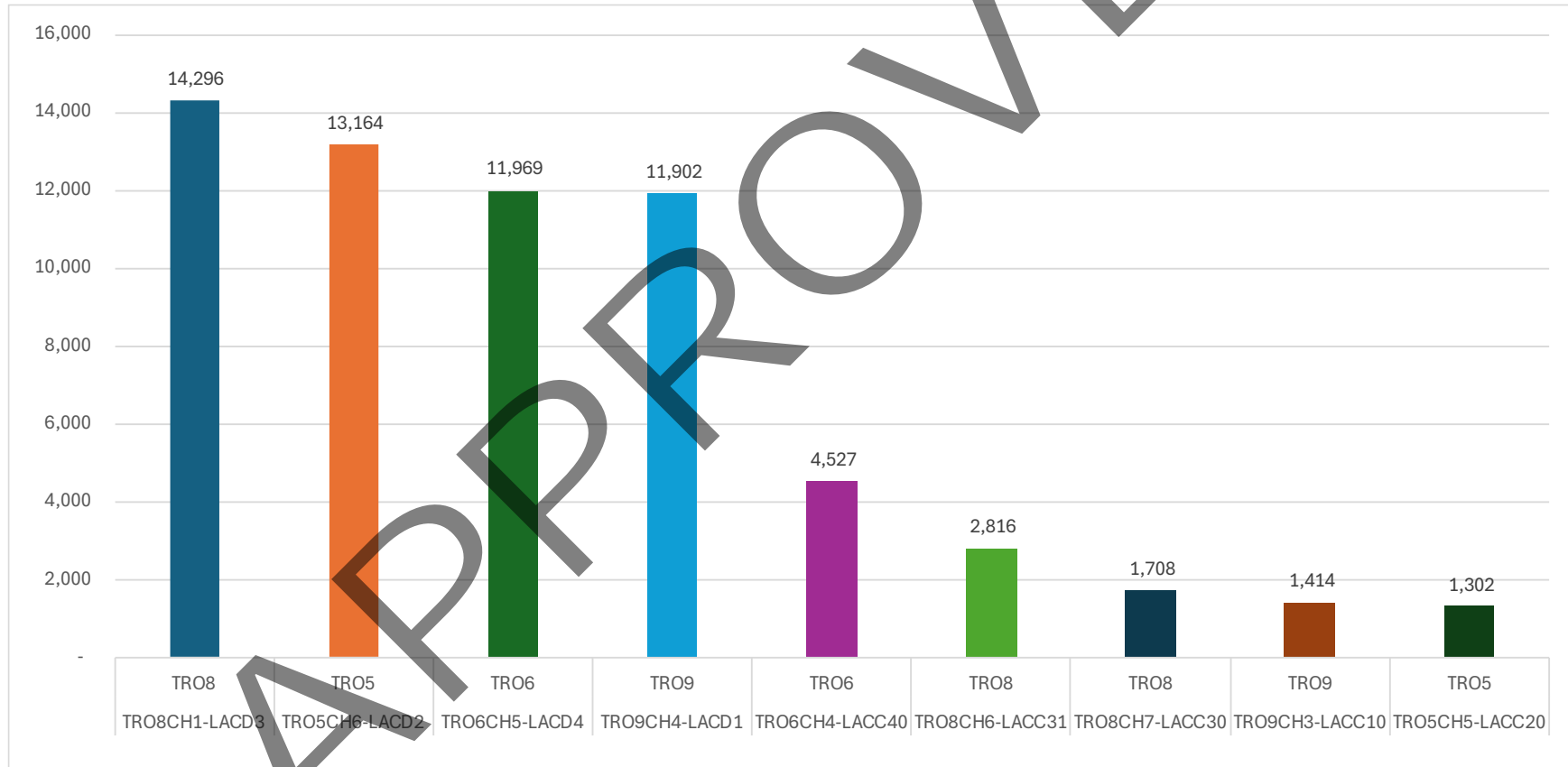
Alternate Board Chair Berkuta adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 9:37 a.m. and stated the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the LA-RICS Headquarters.

Alternate Board Chair Berkuta called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Board Member Ric Walczak made a motion.

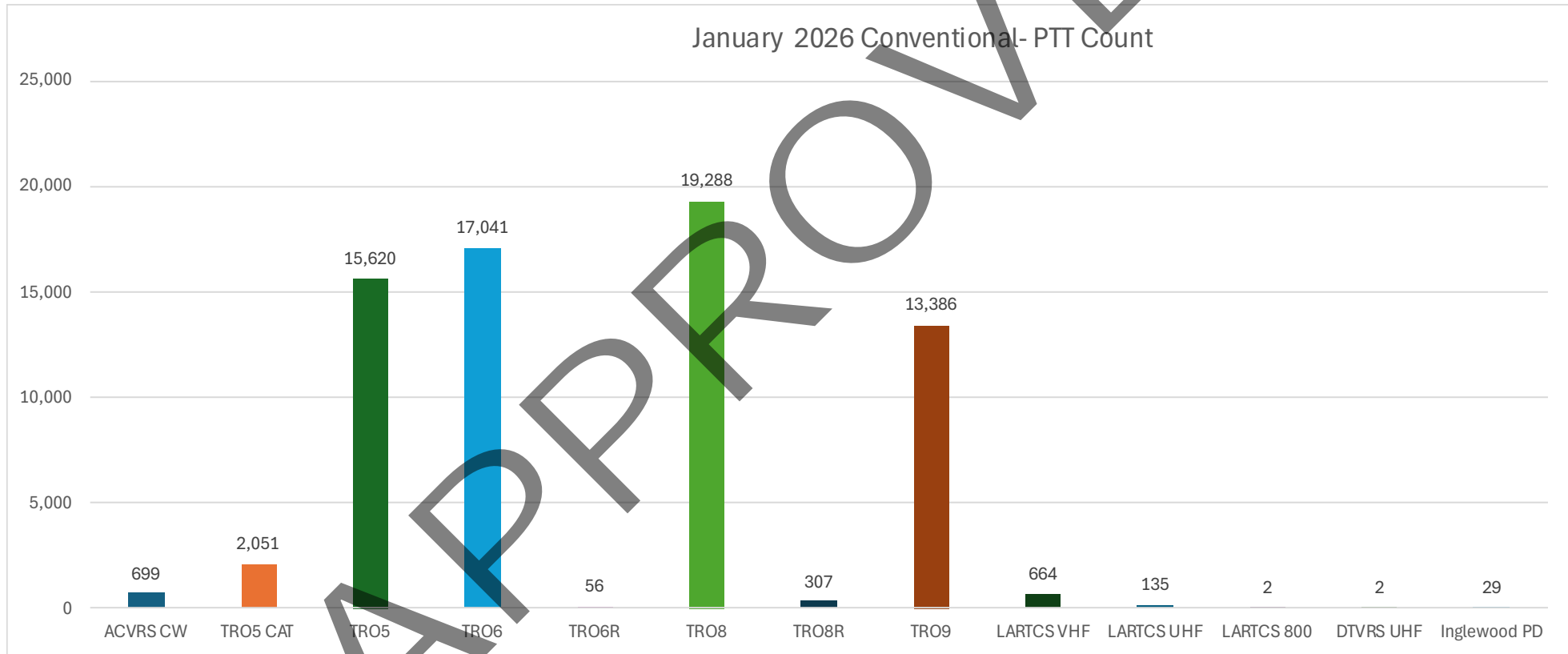
# January 2026 ACVRS PTTs by Cell



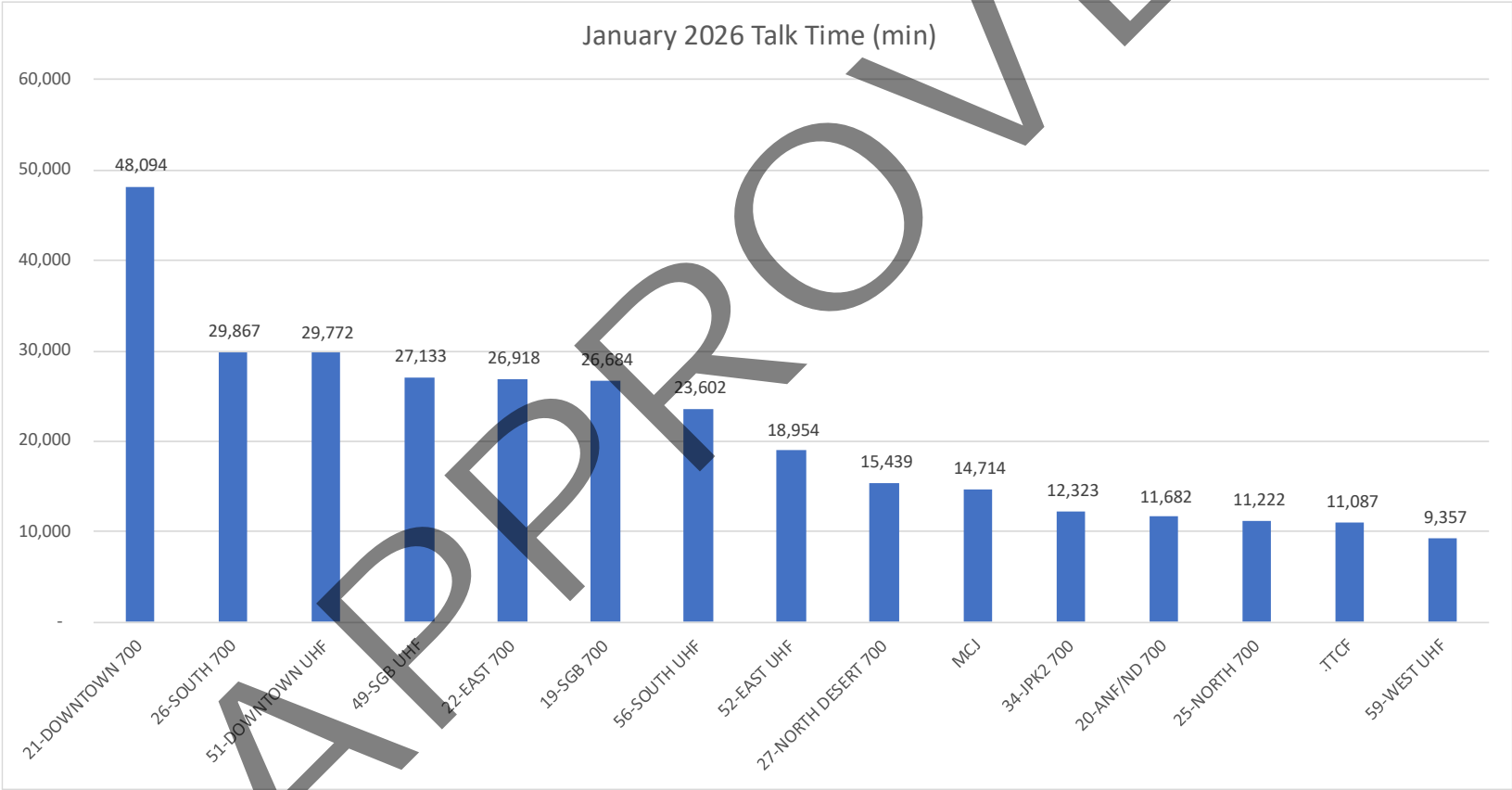
# January 2026 ACVRS Top 10 Channels by PTT Count



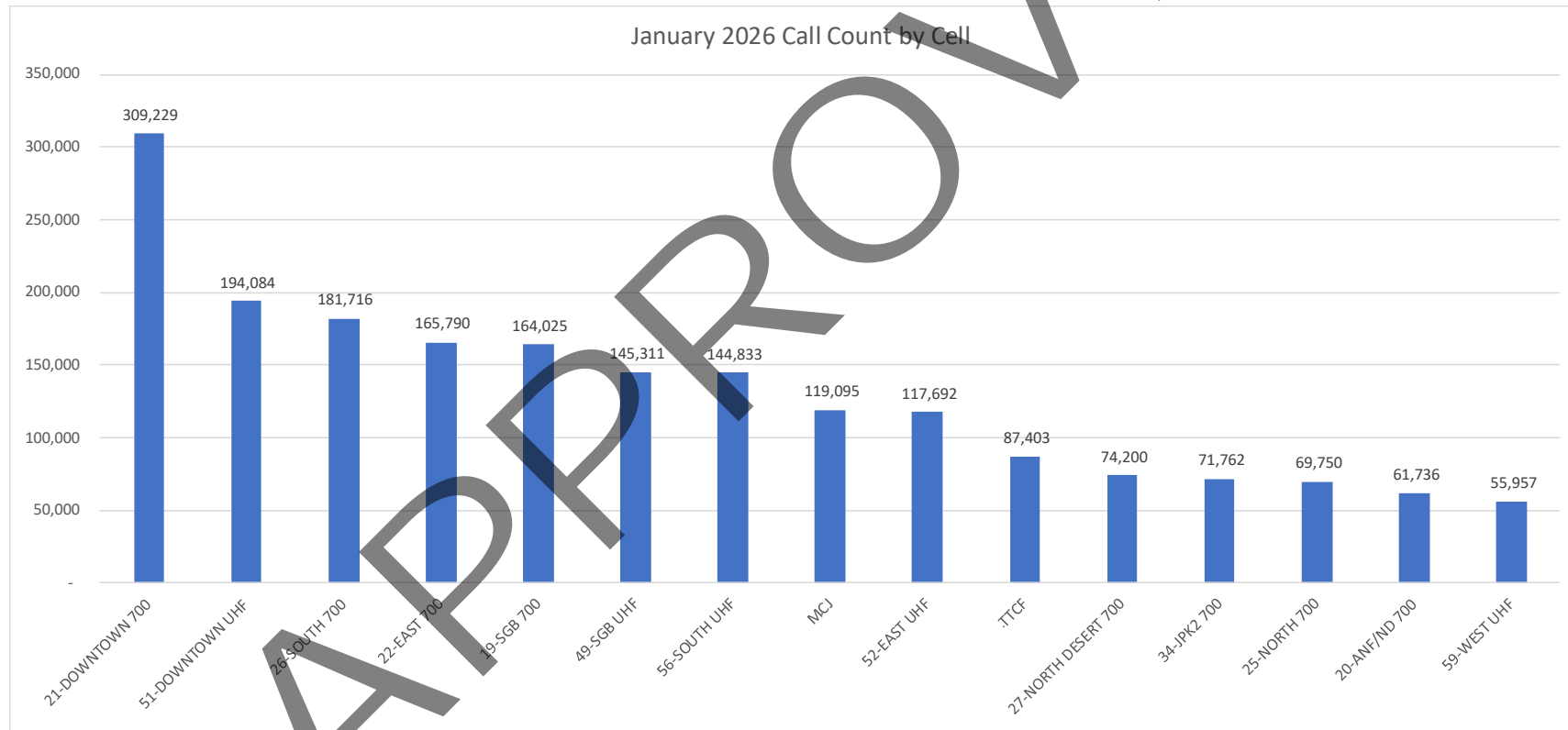
# January 2026 Conventional PTTs by Cell



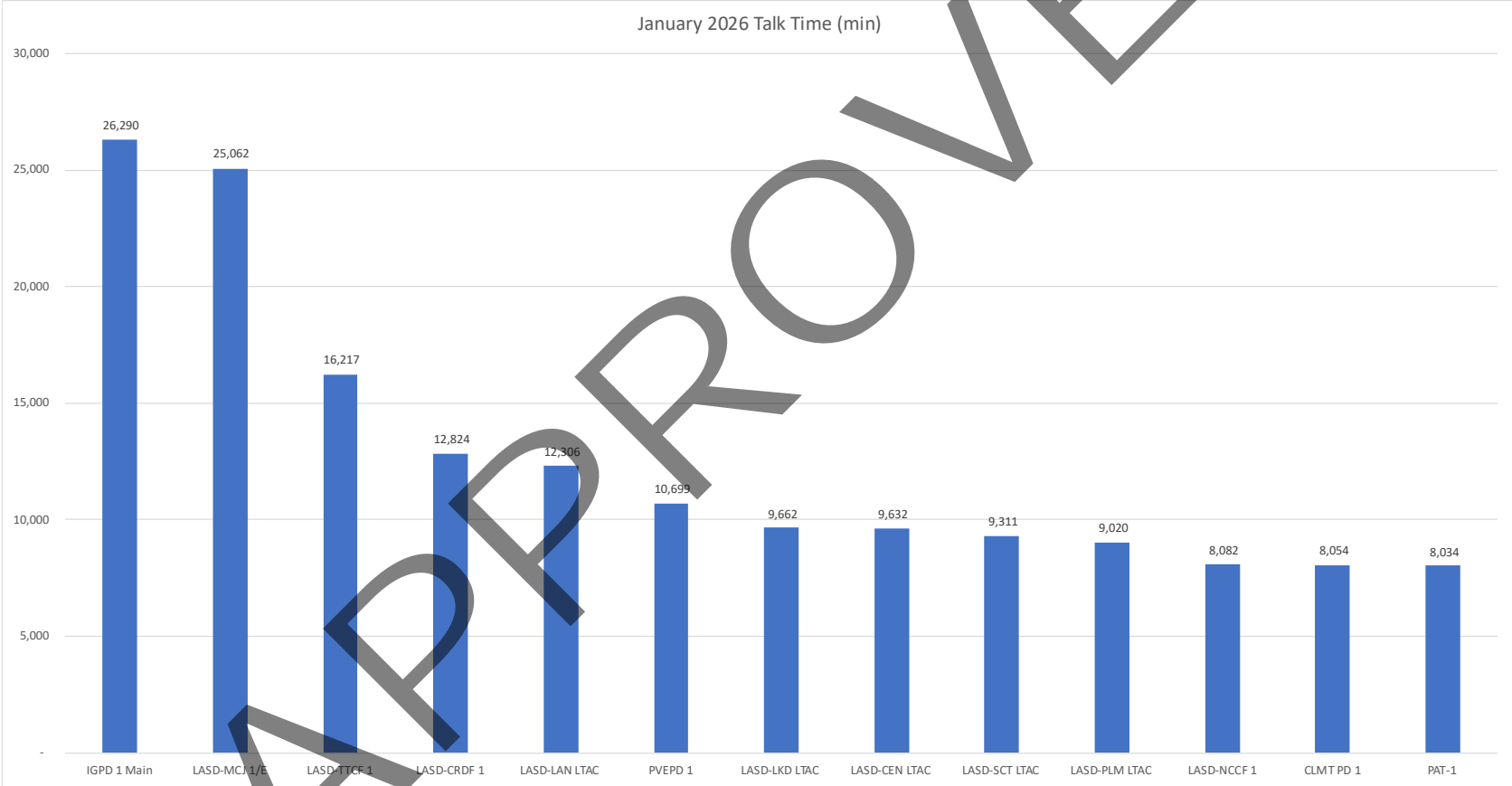
# Top 15 DTVRS Cell Use (Time): January 2026



# Top 15 DTVRS Cell Use (Call Count): January 2026



# Top 15 DTVRS Talkgroups: January 2026



# January 2026 – DTVRS Top Agency Use

