



FINANCE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Thursday, February 26, 2026 • 1:30 p.m.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Hoffman, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office

Leticia Rivera, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

Maria Morales, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services

Marie DiBernardo, City of Inglewood Police Department

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

ALTERNATES FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Marion, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

Anthony Zavala, City of Covina Police Department

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Scott Edson, LA-RICS Executive Director

Laura Vasquez, LA-RICS Committee Secretary

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Michael Alegria, Los Angeles Area Fire Chief's Association

Scott Wiese, LA County Police Chiefs Association

Josh Nelson, California Contract Cities Association



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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brian Hoffman called the Regular Meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)

A. May 22, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Chair Hoffman stated that due to the fact there were new Finance Committee Members present since the last Finance Committee Meeting, the Minutes from the May 22, 2025, Minutes would be Received and Filed.

RECEIVED AND FILED

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE

VI. REPORTS – (B)

B. Executive Summary – Scott Edson

Executive Director Scott Edson stated that, like any good business, LA-RICS continued to track Fiscal Year 2025-26 expenditures against the Operations and Maintenance Agreements with Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI), the County of Los Angeles (County) Internal Services Department (ISD), and other contractors. Executive Director Edson further stated that LA-RICS was aware there were other County departments such as the Department of Regional Planning, City of Los Angeles (City) Department of Public Works, Department of Beaches and Harbors, and County ISD that collected revenue, and, certain years, their revenues fell short of anticipated / projected / budgeted revenue, and, other fiscal years, they exceeded revenue, which assisted the County with its General Fund. Executive Director Edson went on to say that because LA-RICS operated by the County



model, they were interested in understanding how this was addressed by these County departments, and because LA-RICS' research was a recommended policy before the Committee. Executive Director Edson explained that, upon the Committee's recommendation, LA-RICS intended to present the Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors with the policy of whether LA-RICS had a Budget Surplus or Shortfall.

Executive Director Edson reported the Operations and Maintenance cost projections for the next Fiscal Year 2026-27 were approximately twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) which incorporated revenue from grants awarded to LA-RICS including the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and the LA-RICS Board Adopted Subscriber Agreement Revenue. Executive Director Edson further reported that LA-RICS estimated the Subscription Rate for County department users would be sixty-five dollars (\$65), but there would be a possibility the rate could increase to seventy dollars (\$70) across the departments in the next Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Executive Director Edson expressed that LA-RICS hoped to keep the rate at sixty-five dollars (\$65) per user, however, there were less users due to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) staffing shortage which could result in a cost increase. Executive Director Edson mentioned the cost would include narrowband data services which he would later discuss in more detail. Executive Director Edson emphasized the County Fire Department (LACoFD) was paying eighty-five dollars (\$85), and other County users were paying sixty-five dollars (\$65) since LACoFD used narrowband data services; LA-RICS was looking to ensure that all users would pay the same rate in the future.

Regarding Grants, Executive Director Edson shared that since the last Finance Committee Meeting in May 2025, LA-RICS successfully closed out the UASI 2022 and UASI 2023 grants along with the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) 2022 and 2023 grants. Executive Director Edson further shared that LA-RICS was on track to complete spending on the UASI 2024 grant by this December. Executive Director Edson went on to say that LA-RICS continued to receive non-equitable grant allocations, however, for ongoing Operations and Maintenance by the UASI Approval Authority, whereby systems such as the City of Long Beach or the City of Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Port of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles World Airports, would receive the same funding allocation as LA-RICS, despite the fact these agencies were one eighth the size of LA-RICS, which served the entire County and provided No-Cost Affiliate Agreements to these other agencies.

Executive Director Edson expressed that, despite the support that LA-RICS provided to other agencies to ensure interoperable communication during



emergencies and disasters, LA-RICS continued to receive the same funding allocations that other agencies received although these agencies did not provide a shared benefit to the region. Executive Director Edson further expressed that LA-RICS would continue to advocate for equitable allocations and request the Committee's respective agencies' continued support.

Executive Director Edson reported that, additionally, LA-RICS was pushing for collaborative development and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the region, which included all the standalone systems to ensure interoperability. Executive Director Edson further reported that with the completion of the Inter RF Subsystem Interface connections in the region, LA-RICS was emphasizing the next critical path item needed, which was the development of policies and procedures to use the interoperable radio system throughout the region. Executive Director Edson expressed this was not being treated as a priority despite LA-RICS' attempt in developing the first SOP draft and sharing it with the region. Executive Director Edson further expressed the Mayor's office had been unsuccessful in obtaining regional input needed to finalize and implement these policies and procedures, and LA-RICS would continue to lead in driving this progress despite the fact that LA-RICS received non-equitable funding for its role as the communications hub.

This concluded Agenda Item B. There was no further discussion.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS – (C – D)

C. SYSTEM UPDATES

LA-RICS Information Technology (IT) Manager, Justin Compito, greeted the Committee and shared that he would present this Discussion item on behalf of Technical Lead Ted Pao.

IT Manager Compito shared that, once the rainy season ended, and the weather improved, LA-RICS, in concert with MSI, was able to successfully analyze and replace cables and antennas that were damaged due to moisture. IT Manager Compito further shared this would have impacted the communications links for area coverage for each individual site, and these would be completely remediated by March. IT Manager Compito went on to say there was a handful of maintenance work that was rescheduled due to untimely weather as high winds impacted site access, however, mitigation measures were taken, and the system was running with no issues.

Regarding utility power, IT Manager Compito reported this was largely stabilized. IT Manager Compito further reported that unplanned outages continued weekly if



not daily, however, LA-RICS' robust infrastructure allowed power to be provided by backup generators and, if necessary, backup batteries. IT Manager Compito went on to say that LA-RICS continued to work on obtaining permanent power, and, with favorable weather, Southern California Edison's (SCE) power construction work at site Burnt Peak (BUR1) was nearing completion, and SCE was looking to establish utility power within the next week or two; LA-RICS anticipated power cutover to occur soon.

Regarding road repairs, IT Manager Compito reported there continued to be delays at site Whitaker Middle Peak (WMP), as the Department of Public Works resources were being rerouted due to extensive rain and storm-related washouts in the Antelope Valley region. IT Manager Compito further reported that, additionally, the site access road to site Pine Mountain (PMT) suffered a washout; the second and third alternate routes were deemed inaccessible, IT Manager Compito said that LA-RICS continued to pursue a method of repairing the primary route soon, and LA-RICS would update the Committee once it was repaired.

IT Manager Compito shared a series of slides reflecting LMR Network usage statistics for January 2026.

IT Manager Compito shared the first slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 1), which reflected statistics for January's analog conventional channels, with the heaviest use by the LACoFD TRO 8 region, which covered the San Gabriel Valley area as the busiest with over nineteen thousand (19,000) Push-to-Talks in January.

IT Manager Compito 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. IT Manager Compito stated the Dispatch 3 channels showed the most use, and dispatch channels for each individual cell would always show the highest use from the LACoFD perspective. IT Manager Compito further stated that individual command channels were assigned on a case-by-case basis.

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

IT Manager Compito shared a fourth slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 4), which showed the Digital Trunked Voice Radio Subsystem (DTVRS) cell activities. IT Manager Compito stated there were two (2) frequency ranges, which were the 700 cell and Ultra High Frequency, and users could operate on either range. IT



Manager Compito further stated the Downtown 700 and the South Cell showed the highest use, and usage would vary month to month; cell usage among cells was close from an overall talk time perspective. IT Manager Compito went on to say that LA-RICS also tracked LASD custody facilities such as the Men's Central Jail (MCJ) and the Twin Tower Correctional Facility (TTCF), which both showed substantial use.

IT Manager Compito shared a fifth slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 5), which reflected the call count for the top fifteen (15) DTVRS cell use for January. IT Manager Compito mentioned the Downtown 700 cell had the most call counts.

IT Manager Compito shared a sixth slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 6), which showed Inglewood PD leading the way in the Top 15 DTVRS talk groups for January; MCJ had the second busiest talk group followed by TTCF. IT Manager Compito further shared the DTVRS talk groups with the most time usage would tend to be LASD. IT Manager Compito mentioned that LA-RICS recently onboarded Palos Verdes Estates PD, which was in sixth place in the graph.

The final slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 7) that IT Manager Compito shared was the DTVRS Top Agency Use, which was the multiple talk groups added together. IT Manager Compito reported that LASD was the agency that had the most talk time in minutes followed by Inglewood PD, Palos Verdes Estates PD, University of California, Los Angeles PD, Claremont PD, and smaller agencies. IT Manager Compito mentioned that LACoFD primarily used analog conventional channels, which was why the chart did not show them as a high user.

Information Technology Manager Compito concluded his report and asked the Committee if they had any questions to which there were none.

D. AFTER ACTION REPORTS UPDATE

Executive Chief Edson shared that LA-RICS was involved in the after-action reports from the 2025 wildfires, and one of the points that was evident was the LMR system performed flawlessly as the system maintained continuous operation. Executive Director Edson further shared that LA-RICS constantly monitored the system for spikes in traffic, and there were none; there was plenty of bandwidth and capacity. Executive Director Edson went on to say that LA-RICS had been proactive in ensuring that weed abatement was performed around the LMR sites to maintain brush clearances. Executive Director Edson reported the LA-RICS Network Operations Center worked with Fire Command and Control to ensure that LACoFD was readily available to protect any LMR sites if the fires happened to encroach upon them.



Executive Director Edson reported that a few LMR sites suffered some heat damage, however, the LMR system ran without interruption. Executive Director Edson expressed that LA-RICS was very proud the system remained fully operational, and the system saved a few agencies that had their own systems go down, and these agencies were able to utilize the LMR system successfully.

Executive Director Edson stated what did not work successfully was the commercial carriers as the cell sites in the Altadena and Pacific Palisades areas went down; the broadband sites, AT&T, FirstNet, and Verizon, went offline, because the cell towers were destroyed. Executive Director Edson further stated that because of this, there was no broadband data for data cars and fire engines. Executive Director Edson mentioned that LACoFD successfully kept their narrowband operations through LA-RICS.

Executive Director Edson shared the difference between broadband and narrowband data was that broadband had higher speeds than narrowband, which was predominantly useful for Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) types of operations. Executive Director Edson stated that one of the recommendations LA-RICS took from the after-action reports was that all public safety agencies should consider using the narrowband network as well. Executive Director Edson further stated that many agencies, including LASD, had at least two (2) carriers (Verizon and AT&T most likely), and if LASD was to eliminate one of those carriers, and move to narrowband, then it might offset the equipment cost since LASD would not pay for two (2) commercial carriers.

Executive Director Edson mentioned that something to consider in the future is that users who are using LA-RICS as their primary system may also want to consider moving to narrowband since narrowband would work as long as the LMR system was online. Executive Director Edson stated the advantage of narrowband was that a user could receive CAD calls, data, and instructions through CAD versus radio traffic.

Executive Director Edson further stated this was why LA-RICS was aiming for Fiscal Year 2026-27 to onboard all agencies in the region onto the LA-RICS system under one subscription price, and that subscription would include the narrowband data network. Executive Director Edson went on to say LA-RICS had been looking into the possibility of a new subscription rate that would be about sixty-five dollars (\$65) for all County users; this price may slightly increase due to LASD having less radios as there was a shortage of LASD personnel; LA-RICS would obtain an updated count of radios needed from the LASD radio system, and that cost may slightly increase. Executive Director Edson said more information



would be known in the future when the recommended Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget was introduced.

Executive Director Edson concluded his report and asked the Committee if they had any questions to which there were none.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (E - F)

E. REVIEW AND RECOMMEND OF THE DRAFT LA-RICS OPERATING REVENUE SURPLUS AND SHORTFALL FUND DISTRIBUTION POLICY

Executive Director Edson requested the Committee to recommend their approval to the LA-RICS Board of Directors of the enclosed LA-RICS Operating Revenue Surplus and Shortfall Fund Distribution Policy to outline the process for fund allocation and fund use. Executive Director Edson stated this policy would cause the establishment of an interest-bearing account to hold funds in the LA-RICS General Fund pending Board approved use determination.

Executive Director Edson explained the revenue surplus, which would be realized at the end of the fiscal year, would be allocated directly to the LA-RICS General Fund. Executive Director Edson further explained that once the LA-RICS Fiscal Agent determined the amount of the surplus, the Authority would present that surplus via budget adjustment and make a recommendation on the use of these funds to the Finance Committee and then to the Board for approval.

Executive Director Edson said that, similarly, in the event of a revenue shortfall, the Authority would address the revenue shortfall through the same process via budget adjustment, and this would be presented to the Finance Committee and then to the Board for approval.

Executive Director Edson stated that on the last page of the recommended policy were the policy guidelines and procedures, and he reminded the Committee the County Auditor Controller served as LA-RICS' Fiscal Agent, and the Fiscal Agent oversaw the maintenance of appropriate funds in accounts and took custody and disbursement of all of these funds in accordance with then generally accepted accounting principles and may make or cause an independent audit as needed.

Executive Director Edson shared that LA-RICS had an interest-bearing account which would be where any surplus would be held until the Board determined what its use would be. Executive Director Edson provided a few examples of what a surplus would be used for, such as providing more network coverage for LACoFD in Franklin Canyon or the Zuma Beach area. Executive Director Edson further



shared that should the Authority decide to move forward with examples such as these, the Authority would make a recommendation to the Joint Operations and Technical Committee to ensure the best recommendations were made to the Board on what these funds should be used for.

Chair Hoffman asked how this new account was related to the existing account, V5D, that was noted in the Policy. Executive Director Edson stated that he would follow up with Finance Committee Chair Hoffman regarding this.

Chair Hoffman asked if there were any questions or comments, then called for a motion to approve. Finance Committee Member Marie DiBernardo motioned first, seconded by Finance Committee Member Maria Morales.

In Favor (7): Hoffman, Rivera, Morales, DiBernardo, Coatney, Marion, and Zavala

MOTION APPROVED.

F. 2026 SCHEDULE FOR LA-RICS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Executive Director Edson presented Agenda Item F that provided the dates for the calendar year 2026 Finance Committee Regular Meeting Schedule:

Regular Meeting (4 th Thursday of the month)
June 26, 2025
July 24, 2025
August 28, 2025
September 25, 2025
October 23, 2025
November 20, 2025 (3 rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving Holiday)
December 18, 2025 (3 rd Thursday due to Christmas Holiday)

Chair Hoffman called for a motion to approve the Schedule for 2026 LA-RICS Finance Committee Meetings. Chair Hoffman motioned first, seconded by Finance Committee Member Brandon Coatney.

Ayes (7): Hoffman, Rivera, Morales, DiBernardo, Coatney, Marion, and Zavala

MOTION APPROVED.



IX. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE

X. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE

XI. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

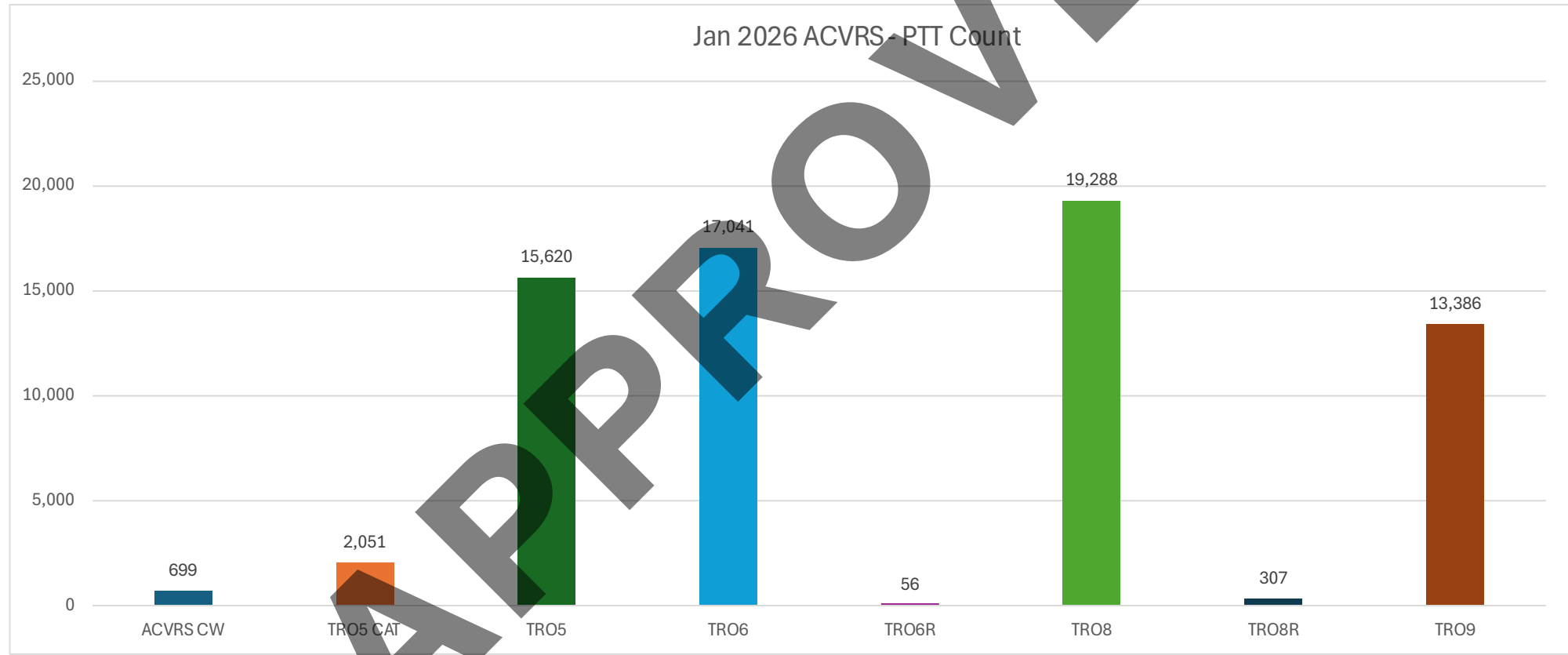
XII. ADJOURNMENT and NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., in person at LA-RICS, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200, Monterey Park, CA, 91754.

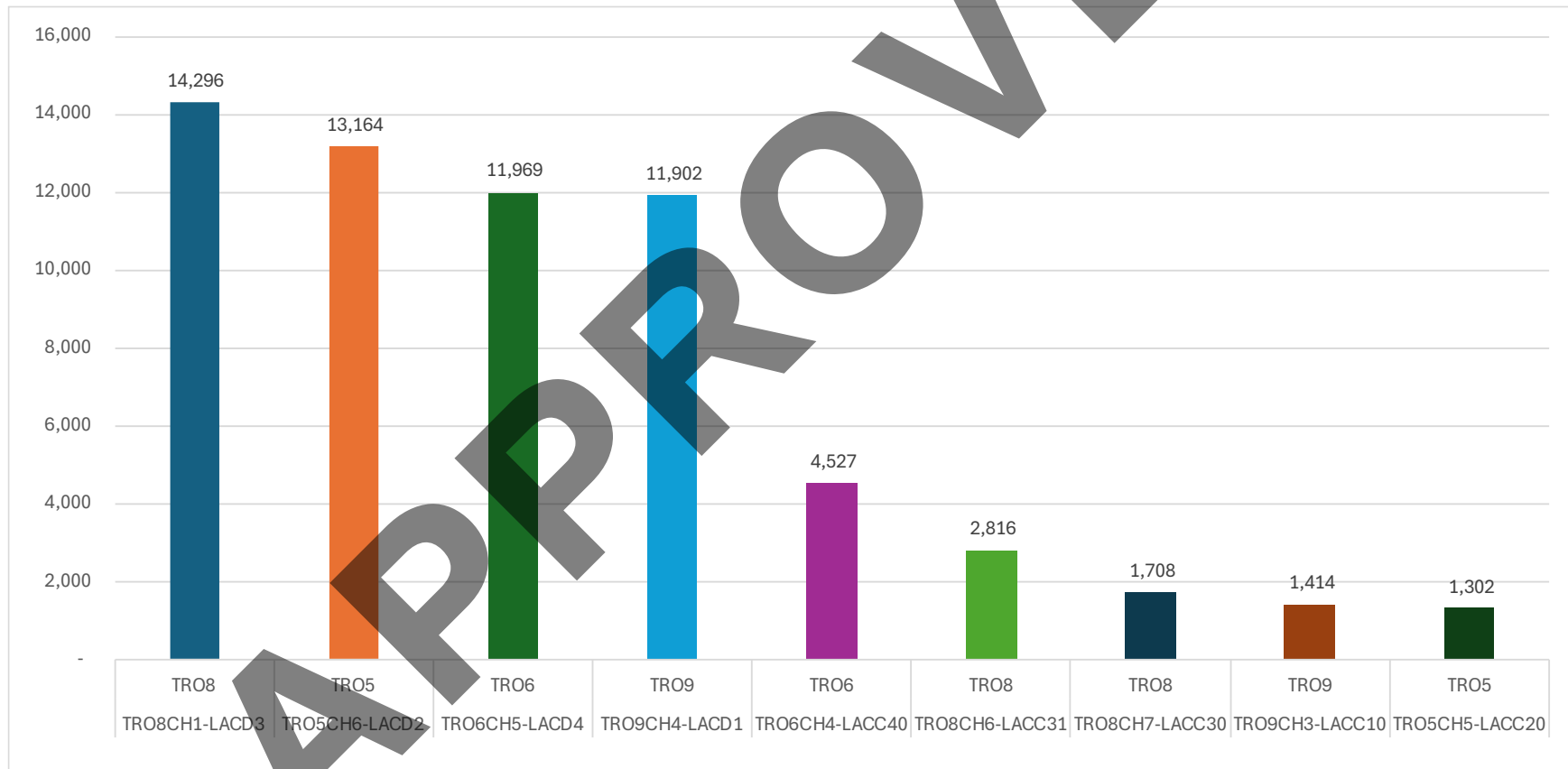
With the absence of any objections, Chair Hoffman moved for a motion to adjourn. Finance Committee Member DiBernardo motioned to adjourn.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

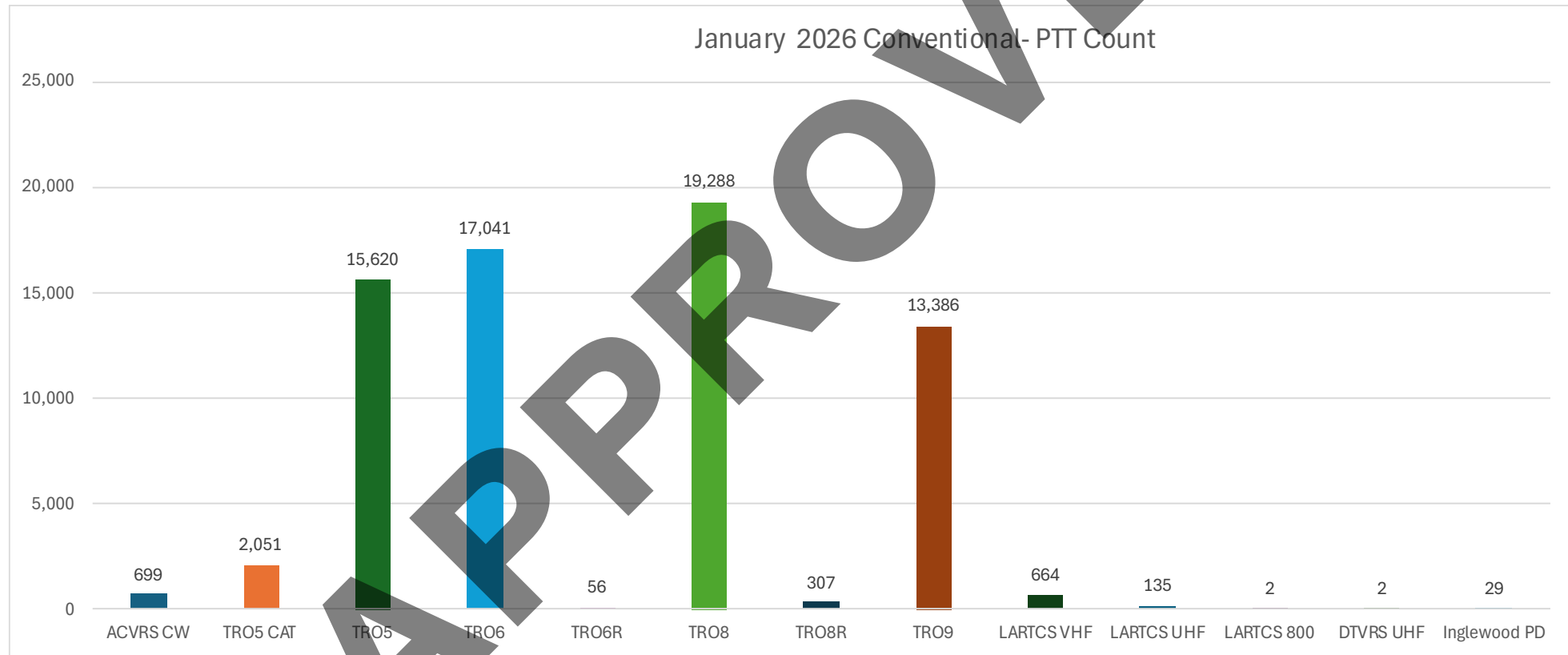
January 2026 ACVRS PTTs by Cell



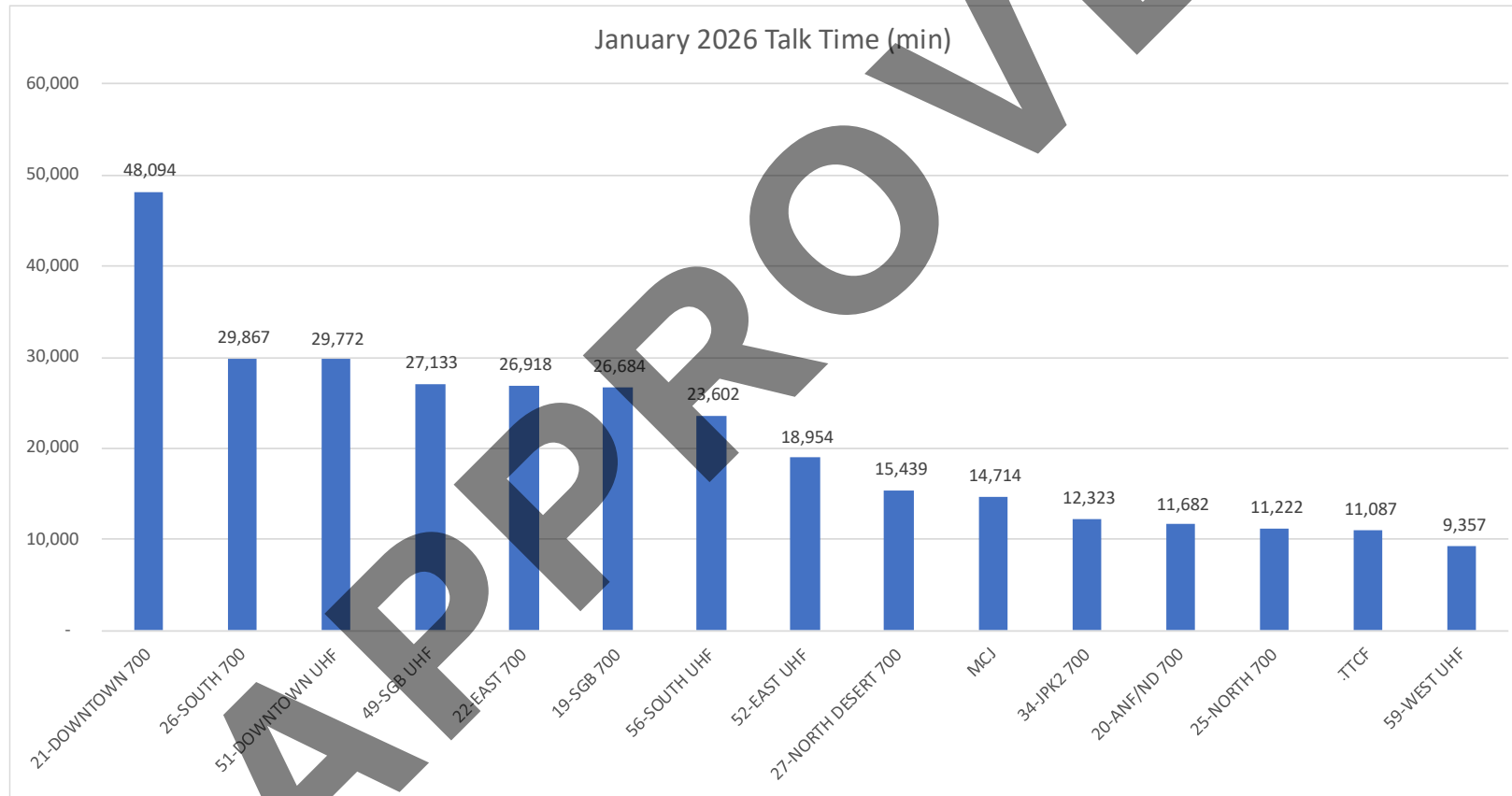
January 2026 ACVRS Top 10 Channels by PTT Count



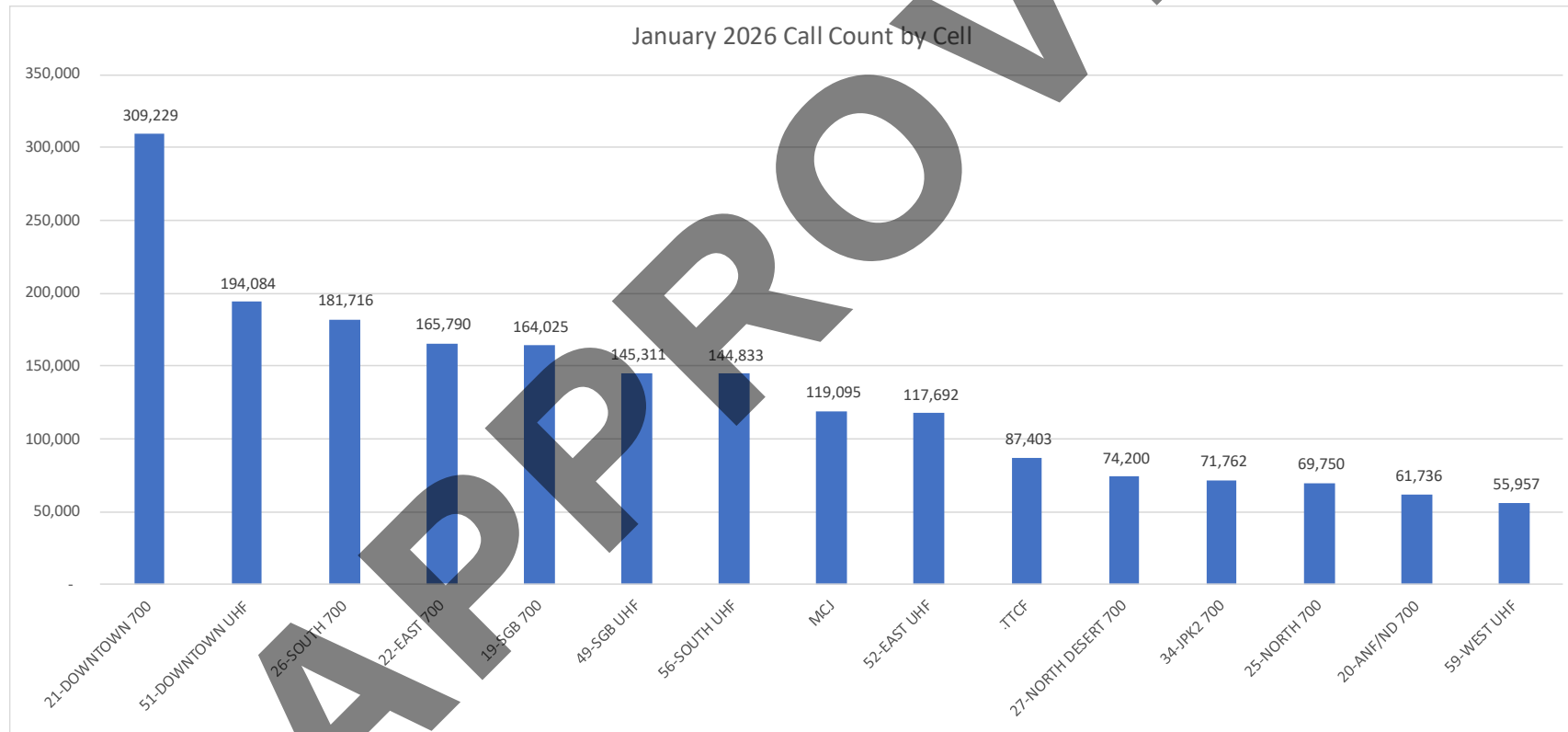
January 2026 Conventional PTTs by Cell



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

