



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL  
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Thursday, August 4, 2022 • 9:00 a.m.  
Conducted via Microsoft Teams Meeting

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

**Anthony Marrone**, Alternate Vice-Chair, Deputy Fire Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

**Richard Tadeo**, Director, EMS Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services

**Phil Ambrose**, Battalion Chief, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association

**Mark R. Alexander**, City Manager, California Contract Cities Association

**David Povero**, Police Chief, City of Covina Police Department

**Mark Fronterotta**, Police Chief, City of Inglewood Police Department

### ALTERNATES FOR BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

**John Geiger**, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office

**Brian Yanagi**, Alternate Chair, Acting Chief, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

**Tom Jacobs**, Lieutenant, Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association

### OFFICERS PRESENT

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

**Susy Orellana-Curtiss**, LA-RICS Administrative Deputy

**Beatriz Cojulun**, LA-RICS Board Secretary

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT / VACANT

**Brian Leyn**, Captain, City of Signal Hill Police Department



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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Alternate Board Chair Brian Yanagi called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 9:02 a.m.

**II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL**

Administrative Beatriz Cojulun took the roll and acknowledged a quorum was present.

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

**A. July 7, 2022 – Regular Minutes**

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi asked the Board if there were any corrections, clarifications, or comments to the attached regular meeting minutes. There were no corrections, clarifications, or comments, therefore, he asked for a motion to approve.

Board Member Mark Alexander motioned first, seconded by Board Member Richard Tadeo.

Ayes 9: Geiger, Marrone, Yanagi, Tadeo, Ambrose, Jacobs, Alexander, Povero, and Fronterotta.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE**

There was no public comment.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR (B)**

**B. FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB 361 AND RELATED ACTIONS**

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi asked for a motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda Item B.

Board Member Mark Fronterotta motioned first, seconded by Board Member Mark Alexander.



Ayes 9: Geiger, Marrone, Yanagi, Tadeo, Ambrose, Jacobs, Alexander, Povero, and Fronterotta.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**VI. REPORTS (C - H)**

**C. Director's Report – Scott Edson**

Executive Director Scott Edson greeted the Board members and all those in attendance at the meeting. Executive Director Edson shared the Authority had a wonderful, productive month of July with many successes to report.

Executive Director Edson thanked Fire Chief Daryl Osby for his years of service with County of Los Angeles (County) Fire department (LACoFD) and a well-earned retirement. Executive Director Edson went on to say that Chief Osby has been in the fire service for 38 years and was appointed the Fire Chief position by the County Board of Supervisors in 2011. Executive Director Edson stated that Chief Osby has also served on the LA-RICS Board of Directors since his appointment, and because of him, the LA-RICS System will better serve all the fire departments in this region and state, and in turn, have interoperability with other first responders to ultimately better serve the public.

Executive Director Edson shared the Authority's plans to have an in-person opportunity to congratulate and thank Chief Osby, at which time further details will be provided to the Board and everyone present, in hopes that everyone can attend. Executive Director Edson once again, congratulated Chief Osby and thanked him for his service.

Chief Osby's retirement lent itself as an ideal segue for Executive Director Edson to remind the Board of an annual agenda item for the election/re-election of Chair and Vice Chair positions. Executive Director Edson informed the Board the said agenda item would be forthcoming on the next meeting agenda.

Executive Director Edson reported on the continued progress of the LA-RICS System with fifty-seven (57) of fifty-eight (58) sites substantially complete, as well as construction on the last remaining site, MCI. Executive Director Edson shared there been some delays on the MCI site, which pushed out the schedule about one (1) month. Executive Director Edson further stated the Authority continues to work with Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI) to find ways to recover time and come to a consensus on the new Integrated Master Schedule (IMS). Executive Director Edson said that as the August 4, 2022 Board Meeting, full system acceptance was estimated to be on October 19, 2023.



Executive Director Edson said that MSI continues to complete punch corrections and resolve assorted issues resulting from installations deviating from approved plans, warranty work on deficiencies discovered after construction, and Closeout Books, which is essentially a book describing everything the Authority needs to know about a particular site.

Executive Director Edson reported that to-date, fifty (50) sites have undergone the Phase 4 audit and the corresponding Closeout Books were submitted to LA-RICS for review. Executive Director Edson described the review of these books as “painstaking” and required great attention to detail.

Executive Director Edson shared that work on a permanent power solution at the Green Mountain (GRM) site continues to proceed with the City of Los Angeles (City) Department of Water and Power (LADWP) continuing to add requirements without providing the Authority requested documents. Further, weekly meetings take place with LADWP to clarify requirements as there is no single statement of requirements available from LADWP for providing power to a site.

Executive Director Edson believes that despite issues with LADWP, overall, the Authority is in a really good place. Executive Director Edson reported there are thirty-three (33) cells on the air; fifty-two (52) sites are optimized; and of these, forty-eight (48) sites are on the air. Executive Director Edson said that all agencies in the region are welcome to make use of the system during this time and at no charge.

Executive Director Edson shared that one of the next biggest steps is the cutover of member agencies onto a tested and accepted system where an agency would leave their existing system and migrate to the Authority’s system. Additionally, cutover plans continue to be developed in a joint effort between LA-RICS, MSI, and each agency and would be managed to ensure that all cutovers occur as planned with no significant delays that would affect the schedule or operations.

Executive Director Edson mentioned the LMR System Manager, Steve Page, would share additional details regarding the LMR system as well as other good news in the Project Manager’s Report immediately following the Director’s Report.

Executive Director Edson moved on to discuss the Authority’s public image, saying that despite a regular newsletter with thousands of emails subscribed to the Authority as well as verbal and written reports from meetings, the Authority continues to receive feedback from individuals in high-level positions that do not understand what LA-RICS is about or have no faith the system will be completed. Executive Director Edson encouraged promotion of the LA-RICS System as much as possible, hoping agencies would join the System now for free as an early adopter with the hopes that agencies will sign on as a member. Further, a new flyer would be made available to everyone in an effort to extend the Authority’s outreach efforts.



Executive Director Edson pivoted on the topic of outreach by letting the Board know that Operations Lead Lieutenant Weber would provide an update regarding outreach under Agenda Item H and brief the Board regarding the Joint Operations and Technical Committee Meeting under Agenda Item E. Additionally, Technical Lead Ted Pao would provide an update on Spectrum issues under Agenda Item G. Executive Director Edson added that Agenda Item I, which contemplated a reduction in work for certain tower removal the Authority, was to be presented to the Board with a recommendation for approval.

This concluded the report on Agenda Item C by Executive Director Edson. There was no further discussion.

**D. Project Manager's Report – Steve Page**

Acting Project Manager Steve Page greeted the Board and presented Agenda Item D, which consisted of the following:

July Successes

Acting Project Manager Page reported that in July, the Phase 2 Team's focus was construction at the MCI site above Malibu. A large portion of the work has been completed, MSI was performing some of their activities inside the shelter, and the final construction items were in progress.

Acting Project Manager Page stated that review of MSI's coverage test results has continued along with significant progress on the Phase 4 Closeout Books.

July Challenges

As Executive Director Edson previously mentioned, Acting Program Manager Page conveyed to the Board that the move towards permanent power at the GRM site continued to be a challenge with the Authority working with LADWP and State Parks for an easement so work could continue.

Key Program Metrics

Acting Project Manager Page presented Key Program Metrics and displayed a PowerPoint slide. Similar to last month, the number of sites had not changed since that Catalina completed, and until MCI is complete, these numbers would not change substantially.



### Phase 2 Substantially Complete

Acting Project Manager Page continued to present PowerPoint slides and disclosed that until MCI is complete, the map would as is with the yellow pins representing substantially complete sites, leaving MCI as the sole pin in red.

### Phase 4 Installed

Showing the same map, Acting Project Manager Page reiterated that the sole red pin pending Phase 4 installation was MCI, which would see significant progress over the course of the summer.

### Sites Optimized

Acting Project Manager Page stated that at the time of the Board Meeting, the Authority has fifty-two (52) sites optimized. Acting Project Manager Page reminded the Board that as mentioned several months ago, once the Authority obtained primary power to these sites, MSI was able to allocate appropriate resources to optimize sites and get them prepared for coverage testing.

### Sites On-air

Acting Project Manager Page reported that forty-eight (48) sites were on the air, with the West Cell sites, San Pedro Hill (which is currently under optimization), and Burnt Peak being the remaining sites to come online.

### Encryption

As reported over the last several months, Acting Program Manager Page discussed the transition from a Phase 2 to a Phase 4 focused program and added encryption as the highlight of this month's meeting.

Acting Project Manager Page explained how the Authority's Digital Trunked Voice Radio System (DTVRS) operated, whereby the user's voice goes into the radio where it is converted to a stream of ones and zeros. When the receiving radio obtains that stream of ones and zeros, they are converted to a voice which comes out of the speaker. Acting Program Manager Page provided a simple explanation but tempered it by noting that a lot of math that goes into making the DTVRS system work.

Acting Project Manager Page further explained that the fundamental requirement for understanding encryption is the exclusive XOR operator which allows for a chunk of digital data and by using a secret 'key', a completely new chunk of data can be uncovered.



Acting Project Manager Page provided an example, using a string of data that was 01000001. Acting Manger Page said that by using the XOR with the secret key, a whole new set of data is uncovered. Acting Project Manager Page went on to say that on the contrary, when working backwards, one can simply take encrypted data, XOR it with the secret key, and the output is the original data. Acting Project Manager Page explained that if a wrong key is utilized, the data would be incorrect, resulting in the audio being unable to be recreated and digital noise would come out of the speaker.

Acting Project Manager Page said that it might look nice and easy, but the LA-RICS network (and subscribers) use Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) encryption, which is 256 bits in length meaning there are a total of 115 quinvigintillion different possible keys. Acting Project Manager Page shared if even one of the binary digits is wrong, the entire key does not work. Acting Project Manager Page stated that unlike horseshoes or hand grenades, close is not good enough. Acting Project Manager Page shared that in the AES standard, there are many different things that happen to the data when it is being encrypted. Acting Project Manager Page provided an example and demonstrated the key as binary with ones and zeros but in order to show this a little more efficiently, he showed the calculations in hexadecimal. Acting Project Manager Page stated that by taking the bits whereby 1010 binary is 'A' in hex, leaving the output to look a certain way, but if it is changed by one bit in the key, the output (encrypted) changes dramatically.

As Acting Project Manager Page concluded his basic overview of encryption, he noted that the security of the encryption keys is vital to maintaining operational security.

#### August Areas of Focus

Acting Project Manager Page reported that this month, the team would be focusing on the construction at MCI, with staff being on site almost each day to keep the construction on track.

Acting Project Manager Page recapped his report by stating the Authority continued to work with State Parks for the easement to get power to GRM, as well as continued to monitor the status of optimization and coverage testing of the system.

This concluded the presentation and report on Agenda Item D by Acting Project Manager Page. There was no further discussion.

**(THERE WAS A CHANGE IN AGENDA ITEM PRESENTATION AND ALTERNATE BOARD CHAIR YANAGI CLARIFIED FOR THE RECORD THAT DISCUSSION ITEM E WAS TAKEN OUT-OF-ORDER WITH DISCUSSION ITEM H)**



**H. Outreach Update – Lieutenant Robert Weber**

Operations Lead Robert Weber greeted Board members and referenced the detailed Outreach Summary document for the month of July included in the agenda packet for review and information.

Operations Lead Weber shared that Authority staff conducted LA-RICS system testing with the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's (LASD) Aero Bureau. Operations Lead Weber said the Authority's efforts were specifically designed to test the viability of a P-25 Phase 2 system for use with airborne law enforcement. Operations Lead Weber reported that system metrics from the testing were to be shared with the LASD's Communications and Fleet Management Bureau (CFMB) staff and Aero Bureau personnel. Operations Lead Weber further reported that overall, the system performed extremely well, and the information obtained from the testing would be useful going forward. Operations Lead Weber went on to say that due to the importance of the testing, Acting Program Manager Steve Page of the project management team provided a full report to the Joint Operations and Technical Committee regarding the test results.

Operations Lead Weber also stated that Authority staff conducted outreach to the City of Compton and the Compton College Police Department. Operations Lead Weber reported that both departments were evaluating their communication needs and the possibility of using LA-RICS. Operations Lead Weber shared that Authority staff would work closely with those departments to ensure that their needs are met.

Operations Lead Weber concluded his report by saying that Authority staff members have continued to work closely with State and Federal partners to ensure interoperability during major events and to further collaborate on regional public safety communication.

This concluded the update on Agenda Item H. Operations Lead Weber asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion.

**G. Spectrum and Licensing Issues Impacting Land Mobile Radio Deployment – Ted Pao**

Technical Lead Ted Pao provided an update on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and was happy to share the Authority received three (3) of the five (5) licenses, pending with the FCC. Technical Lead Pao reported the Authority's application for LASD Monte Vista (MVS), Tejon Peak (TPK), and Bald Mountain (BMT) sites for operation of a Digital Trunked Voice System was granted in early July. Technical Lead Pao said that two (2) applications were still pending, both for TPK with one (1) being for analog conventional system and the other for narrowband data network.





With respect to interference issues, Technical Lead Pao reported the Authority was proceeding with its investigation at the Signal Hill (SGH) and Criminal Courts Building (CCT) sites, after a delay with the supply chain and contractor personnel issues. Technical Lead Pao stated that work would start this month and expected to take most of the month to complete.

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

**(THERE WAS A CHANGE IN AGENDA ITEM PRESENTATION AND ALTERNATE BOARD CHAIR YANAGI CLARIFIED FOR THE RECORD THAT DISCUSSION ITEM H WAS TAKEN OUT-OF-ORDER WITH DISCUSSION ITEM E)**

**E. Joint Operations and Technical Chair's Report – Lieutenant Robert Weber**

Operations Lead Lieutenant Robert Weber provided an update on the Joint Operations and Technical Committee meeting that took place on July 19, 2022. Operations Lead Weber reported the Joint Committee approved the November 16, 2021 Minutes. Acting Project Manager, Steve Page, provided an LMR presentation which detailed and covered the Authority's status on the System, in addition to having provided an update regarding the Regional ISSI Working Group. Operations Lead Weber noted that Technical Lead Pao provided an update on Spectrum and licensing issues and its impact on the LMR System. A detailed analysis of the Authority's Closeout Books and team's comprehensive work on the Closeout Books was presented by Technical Lead Pao and Justin Compito. Further, Operations Lead Weber acknowledged an additional item of discussion to be the County Fire Department Narrowband Mobile Data Network (NMDM) cutover report with Captain August Dougherty and Scott England. Additionally, Operations Lead Weber and Acting Program Manager Page reviewed the LASD Aero Bureau Testing Results.

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

**VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (I)**

**I. APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 103 TO AGREEMENT NO. LA-RICS 007 LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM LAND MOBILE RADIO SYSTEM**

Contracts Manager Jeanette Arismendez greeted the Board and presented Agenda Item I.

Contracts Manager Arismendez presented Agenda Item I, in which the Authority requested approval for Amendment No. 103 to the LMR Agreement for an LMR



System with Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI), which would result in a reduction to the Maximum Contract Sum in the amount of \$199,395.

Contracts Manager Arismendez proceeded to provide the Board with some background information reporting that in May 2021, the Executive Director, under his Board delegated authority, issued the first Unilateral Amendment to the LMR Agreement, which included, among other things, the removal of the Mirador (MIR) tower. Contracts Manager Arismendez explained to the Board that even though the Unilateral Amendment was issued, MSI had not performed the work and had no intention of performing the work. As a result, the Authority as seeking a reduction in the amount of \$10,136, and looking to another contractor to perform the work.

Contracts Manager Arismendez proceeded to explain the reason for the other reduction to the Contract, in particular, its relation to the Analog Conventional Voice Radio System (ACVRS) TRO5 Subsystem. Contracts Manager Arismendez reminded the Board that this item was previously presented to their Board in June 2022, under LMR Amendment No. 92. The amendment was approved to expand the TRO5 Subsystem to include the Signal Hill (SGH) and San Pedro Hill (SPH) sites. Contracts Manager Arismendez went on to inform the Board that MSI would complete the work in its entirety, however the Authority was seeking a reduction in the amount of \$189,259, for a credit owed to the Authority. Contracts Manager Arismendez requested, on behalf of the Authority, for the Board to consider and approve LMR Amendment No. 103, as well as to authorize the Executive Director to execute Amendment No. 103, which reflects the reduction.

This concluded the Administrative Matter on Agenda Item L. Contracts Manager Arismendez asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion.

Alternate Board Member Geiger did asked if, for whatever reason, an earmarked sum isn't spent, if it was necessary to reduce the maximum contract sum because the Authority's earmarks to spend are appropriations but are not mandates?

Administrative Deputy Susy Orellana-Curtiss responded to Alternate Board Member Geiger by informing him the Authority uses Exhibit C (Schedule of Payments) as the reconciliation document with the Authority's federal grantor, as well as the City's Administrator and the Auditor-Controller, which is the Authority's Fiscal Agent in terms of processing of payments and the closeout project line items. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss further responded that what the Authority has done with Exhibit C and the contract, is utilize the document as a reconciliation of known and expected/projected expenses. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss explained that when the Authority encounters a descope of a line item in which work would not be performed, or similarly where the Authority has trued up a site cost, where a site cost would increase, that would both be memorialized in the Exhibit C document, so that all (Federal, State, local) levels would have record of



the expense. Alternate Board Member Geiger wanted to ensure it was on record the Board votes authorizations and not on mandates.

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi confirmed both first and second motion and went on to asked for a motion to approve.

Alternate Board Member Geiger motioned first, seconded by Board Member Alexander.

Ayes 9: Geiger, Marrone, Yanagi, Tadeo, Ambrose, Jacobs, Alexander, Povero, and Fronterotta.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE**

**X. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE BOARD – NONE**

**XI. CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

The Board entered into Closed Session at 9:28 a.m.

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL –Anticipated Litigation (subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9) (2 cases).

The Board returned from Closed Session at 9:55 a.m. Counsel Truc Moore stated the Board was back in open session and the Brown Act did not require a report.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Board Member Alexander motioned first.

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 9:56 a.m., and the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on September 1, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., via Microsoft Teams / Teleconference Meeting.