

APPROVED



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**LOS ANGELES REGIONAL
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY**

Thursday, November 7, 2019 • 9:00 a.m.
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
The Hertzberg Davis Forensic Science Center
Conference Room 223 through 227
1800 Paseo Rancho Castilla, Los Angeles, CA 90032

Board Members Present:

Cathy Chidester, Dir., EMS Agency, County of LADHS
Joe Ortiz, Chief of Police, City of South Pasadena Police Dept.
Mark Alexander, City Manager, CA Contract Cities Assoc.

Alternates For Board Members Present:

John Geiger, CEO, County of Los Angeles
Thomas Ewald, Special Services Deputy Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Dept.
Mark Glatt, Chief, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.
Scott Haberle, Fire Chief, City of Monterey Park Fire Dept.
Louis Perez, Deputy Chief, City of Inglewood Police Dept.

Officers Present:

Scott Edson, LA-RICS Executive Director
Priscilla Dalrymple, LA-RICS Board Secretary

Absent:

John Curley, Chief of Police, City of Covina Police Dept.
Chris Nunley, Chief of Police, City of Signal Hill Police Dept.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alternate Chair, Mark Glatt, called the meeting of the Board to order at 9:01 a.m.

II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – Roll Call

Alternate Chair Glatt asked for a roll call and acknowledged a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)

A. October 3, 2019 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Alternate Chair Glatt asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board.

John Geiger asked to amend the minutes removing his name from Ayes, reflecting he abstained during that vote.

Mark Alexander abstained from approval of the October 3rd minutes as he was not present at the last Board meeting.

Alternate John Geiger motioned first, seconded by Alternate Chair Mark Glatt.

Ayes 6: Ewald, Geiger, Glatt, Haberle, Ortiz, and Perez.

MOTION APPROVED.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE

VI. REPORTS (B-E)

B. Director's Report – Scott Edson

Executive Director Edson stated today should be a fairly brief meeting; only have a couple items to point out on today's agenda along with some exciting news and a plan to ensure better interoperability in the region.

First, under Agenda Item F Outreach, you will see that myself, LA-RICS CISO Ted Pao, and Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System Manager Steven Page, met with Motorola

Solutions Inc. (Motorola) in Melbourne, Australia, where we were presented numerous examples of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) in that Country. This included the states of New South Whales, Western Australia and Victoria. In Victoria we met with the Victoria Police, Fire, Prisons and Emergency Managers specifically to discuss their three (3) models of O&M. We also met with the Victoria State Emergency Service and Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority to understand their duties and communications needs and how their models in their State satisfy their needs. A full report will be published soon and presented at the Joint Operations and Technical Committee meeting. Staff is scheduled to present to me draft service level agreement model for our O&M, and thus we will package the items with what was learned during our visit to Australia and present your Board with findings and recommendations in the near future.

Second, we are happy to present Agenda Item H, an agreement for a Long Term Evolution 2 (LTE) site, and a LMR site, for your approval. The LTE2 site is with the City of Azusa and is known as Azusa Canyon (AZUCYN); and the LMR site is with the County of Los Angeles and is known as Dakin Peak (DPK).

Executive Director Edson went on to state he hopes the Board saw the press release put out by the US Forest Service last Thursday titled "Angeles National Forest Issues Permit for Regional Emergency Communication System." The Forest service staff, along with Forest Supervisor Jerome Perez, worked closely with our staff, for years to make this happen. Executive Director Edson stated he would like to quote the first paragraph of the press release, which, by the way, was a welcomed surprise to us: "In an effort to modernize communications amongst first responders in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area, Jerome Perez, Angeles National Forest (ANF) Supervisor, signed a decision on October 31, 2019, leasing 13 sites in the national forest for installation of a Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system operated by the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Authority. This LMR system will unify local, state, and federal emergency responders' communications through the use of a single state-of-the-art network".

Executive Director Edson stated he sent the full press release to the Board Members and gave a special thanks to Ms. Nancy Yang and Mr. Jim Hoyt who spent countless months and years making this come to fruition. These sites will benefit our fire fighters when fighting these horrific fires and no doubt save countless trees from being destroyed or damaged, also reducing the mud flow threat.

Executive Director Edson stated six (6) of the 13 LMR forest sites will convert to co-location sites as they will include FirstNet Band Class14 LTE service as part of our LTE Round 2 project, and upon completion become part of the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) available to all public safety responders.

The US Forest Service (USFS) Land Management Plan will be amended to allow the one-time project level exception to construct communication towers that will be taller than the tallest existing structure on their existing communication sites, as well as some towers that will not meet the scenic integrity objective in the area.

The team is working closely with the US Forest Service to coordinate next steps and submission of Plan of Development, which triggers a 30-day permit issuance timeframe.

Upon receipt of this Decision Memo, the team submitted a request to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Environmental & Historic Preservation Management Information System clearance, which will allow for purchase of equipment in anticipation of upcoming site construction. We expect EMIS clearance to occur very soon as we expect FEMA will concur with USFS decision.

Executive Director Edson stated another huge accomplishment is the progress we have made on the Coastal sites; much thanks again to the team and especially to the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) who is coordinating the approvals needed for these sites. There are seven (7) Coastal sites under county jurisdiction with all seven (7) submitted to DRP. Of these seven (7) we have received formal comment on six (6) and have formally responded to one which is now back with DRP. We are working to provide comments back on remaining five (5) DRP comments. An eighth (8th) coastal site is under City of Los Angeles jurisdiction and will go straight for permit.

As we shave time off the Forest and Coastal processes, the program end date also moves in closer, however, speaking of the schedule, we have received an update to the Integrated Master Schedule from Motorola and it will be pushing out to later in 2021, but we are reviewing now and making adjustments to reflect known dates such as the Forest and Coastal sites, so a new date is not yet finalized.

The new schedule will have a new program end date but at no additional cost, and will remain within budget and grant deadlines. We have worked with Jacobs who will make program and staffing adjustments to ensure no additional charges to the program, and Motorola did not include any additional cost with the new master schedule.

Executive Director Edson stated as we review the new schedule, the above time savings, and contemplated changes to testing and training, since the system has changed over time, we believe there may actually be a cost savings to report. He will report back new dates and saving as soon as we finish our review.

In regards to LTE Round 2, Project Manager Justin Delfino will present some good news, but will say it is progressing with the finish line fast approaching in June. In addition to those six (6) co-located sites on the US Forest LMR sites, we have already selected four (4) construction firms to start building, with six (6) more invitation for bids to construct now on the streets. More will be coming to you for more approvals next month.

In closing, Executive Director Edson spoke about our plans for the upcoming Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Approval Authority meeting-taking place in a couple weeks. He stated, as your Board is aware the UASI approval authority committed to FEMA and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) that we would fund the completion of a systems of systems that would allow the individual and regional systems to be tied together for improved interoperability. We will complete our system using 2019 UASI funds and be prepared to tie together with the other systems in the Region upon completion. Los Angeles City and others are asking for O&M money to sustain their systems and we will too at the appropriate time; but in the meantime, we will ask the UASI Approval Authority to allow us to work with the other radio systems to tie us all together and to fund any gaps required to achieve the interconnections. We are afraid that if this region fails to do so, FEMA and Cal OES may find that we all failed to use the UASI funds for the interoperability purpose we agreed to and it puts future funding at risk. We feel as a countywide system we are in the best position to ensure this happens and this Region benefits from seamless interoperability.

This concludes the Director's Report.

There was no further discussion.

C. Project Manager's Report – Justin Delfino

Project Manager Justin Delfino presented the Construction/Implementation Update.

LTE Round 2 Highlights

Progress and Permitting

- IGPD, MVS2, and UCLA2 have all been submitted to plan check for building permit application and have executed contracts with builders. These are the first three sites to start construction.
- SCEDUN has been drilled, the remaining (5) SCE sites to be drilled by end of November and all SCE sites are currently entering bid process.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- FONSI for SEA 4 was expected in October but has been pushed to November 2019. SEA 5 contains remainder of all remaining sites in program cleared SHPO, and we expect a FONSI in mid-January 2020.

LABOR COMPLIANCE

- The Labor Compliance Program is in place. Specifically, a project number has been designated and assigned by the Department of Industrial Relations for LA-RICS to build out LTE Round 2 Sites, while the Authority will also oversee the Labor Compliance Program that MSI will perform for the (6) planned USFS sites.

SAA's

- AZUCYN is Agenda Item H in your Agenda Packet. Negotiations with the Judicial Council of California are underway for the Pomona and CCB Sites. We anticipate the Scholl Canyon SAA in November 2019, and an ROE from Port of Long Beach for POLB1 is pending.

Board Member Mark Alexander asked if Scholl Canyon is in Glendale. Project Manager Delfino stated yes, it borders Glendale and sits within the boundaries of a waste processing facility.

LMR Highlights

- **Construction Summary on LMR:** Twenty-nine (29) out of (58) sites remain at 50% completed to date. Thirty-one (31) permits have been issued. Zero recordable injuries to date and phase 2 completion/acceptance walks have commenced with MSI.
- **USFS SITES:** A Decision Memo was received for (12) sites on November 1, 2019. The Special Use Permit (SUP) and DPW permits are expected in December 2019. MSI provided feedback to close out questions from JPL at Frost Peak (FRP) and Plans of Development (POD's) are in final draft form awaiting final power plans which are expected by end of November 2019.

Executive Director Edson stated that JPL was concerned about interference. At a high-level, top-secret space projects are going on and they are just worried about potential interference. We are trying to satisfy them that this installation at FRP will not cause any interference to them.

- **Coastal Sites:** Reviews are tracking ahead of schedule by jurisdiction and is the primary area of focus as we collectively seek opportunities for time savings on the Program.

SAA's:

- DPK is Agenda Item H. in your Agenda Packet. We received the SAA for UNIV and GRM, RIH, and BHS expected to come before your board in December 2019.

Current Focus:

- The UASI 18 Equipment Order has been resolved POD's for USFS are pending and comments have been received for all Coastal sites

First Image – AGH photo: (Left) 70-foot monopole structure, microwave is up, and linking to PSBN. (Right) Shelter is racked up and radios are in.

Second Image – DPW038 photo: The gentlemen pictured are installers hanging the antenna mounts.

Third Image – INDWT photo: 70-foot monopole structure shown depicts that microwave is up, and lines are ready to be dressed in. The equipment is in the shelter.

Fourth Image – LTE2 THOMSEN photo: The recent fires have impacted us. We did not have any fire damage at Thomsen site, but we did see some at the LADWP243.

Fifth Image – LADWP243 photo: At the Cascade site we did have some damage due to the fires. The fire charred the ground mounted A/C condensers, electrical jay boxes, and control wiring will all likely be replaced with new. The builder is filling an insurance claim and the damage is expected to be repaired in a timely fashion.

Board Member Mark Alexander asked about the JPL site, whether it is one of our proposed sites.

Project Manager Delfino stated JPL is not our site. Project Director Chris Odenthal responded to Board Member Mark Alexander that Frost Peak site is our highest-elevation site in the county and is on the eastern side, which provides coverage all the way north into the northern desert and eastward to Palmdale/Lancaster area. It also, covers a quarter of the eastern section of the Angeles National Forest and spills down coverage to northern Claremont border of the foothills. Frost Peak is the site JPL is concerned about potential interference with their site located on Table Mountain.

Board Member Mark Alexander asked at one time were we in discussions about locating one of our sites at JPL. Project Director Odenthal stated; Table Mountain was one of the original sites that was included in the (RFP) ten (10) years ago. Frost Peak and Lower Blue Ridge are neighboring sites that Los Angeles County Fire is on, those two (2) sites are what we have gone back and forth with but Table Mountain was not one of the selected sites.

CISO Ted Pao stated we did look at JPL itself as one of our potential sites but that site did not make it into our site list. Executive Director Edson stated some of the team members met with JPL to bring them up to date on LA-RICS and they had an interest in becoming a subscriber in the future. Alternate Board Member Thomas Ewald asked if that site represents the 13th USFS site. Project Manager Delfino stated correct.

This concludes the Project Manager's Report.

There was no further discussion.

D. Joint Operations and Technical Committee Chairs Report – No Report

E. Finance Committee Report – No Report

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS (F-G)

F. Outreach Update

Executive Assistant Wendy Stallworth-Tait presented Agenda Item F and stated the reporting period for outreach taking place in September and October covers ongoing meetings with AT&T and Motorola. There were meetings with representatives from County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office, MTA, Parks and Recreation, and the City of Covina. Executive Director Edson provided in his report, details of his trip to Australia and his attendance at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference as well as the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) FirstNet Conference.

There was no further discussion.

G. Statement of Receipts & Disbursements for AT&T Business Agreement Fund for Public Safety Broadband Network

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss presented Agenda Item G and stated this item is a quarterly report and use of funds resulting from the Business Agreement with AT&T. This item provides a report on expenditures quarter ending September 30, 2019.

There was no further discussion.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (H-I)

H. DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT FOR LONG TERM EVOLUTION ROUND 2 AND LAND MOBILE RADIO SYSTEM SITES

Executive Assistant Stallworth-Tait presented Agenda Item H and recommended the Board take the following action:

1. Find the approval and execution of the CSLA for LTE2 site AZUCYN with the City of Azusa which would allow the construction, implementation, operation and maintenance of the LTE2 System infrastructure to be incorporated into the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) at this site is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15303 and 15304 for the reasons stated in this Board Letter and as noted in the record of the LTE2 project;
2. Find that the approval and execution of the SAA with County of Los Angeles for LMR site DPK is within the scope of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the LA-RICS LMR System, which was previously certified by your Board under CEQA on March 29, 2016; that the environmental findings and Mitigation Monitoring Program previously adopted by the Board are applicable to the currently recommended actions; and that there are no changes to the project at this site or to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that require revisions to the previous EIR due to new significant effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director to complete negotiations, finalize and execute the two (2) real estate agreements identified herein, substantially similar in form to the agreements attached hereto at Enclosure 1.

Board Member Mark Alexander motioned first, seconded by Alternate Board Member Thomas Ewald.

Ayes 8: Alexander, Chidester, Ewald, Geiger, Glatt, Haberle, Ortiz, and Perez

MOTION APPROVED

I. 2020 SCHEDULE OF LA-RICS BOARD MEETINGS

Executive Assistant Stallworth-Tait presented Agenda Item I and recommended the Board take the following action:

Approve the following dates for the calendar year 2020 Board Regular Meeting Schedule:

January 9 (due to January 1st New Year's Day)
February 6
March 5
April 2
May 7
June 4
July 9 (due to 4th of July Holiday)
August 6
September 3
October 1
November 5
December 3

All Regular Meetings will be held at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Scientific Services Bureau, Hertzberg Davis Forensic Science Center, 1800 Paseo Rancho Castilla, Conference Rooms 223 through 227 and 263, Los Angeles, California 90032.

Alternate Board Member Ewald motioned first, seconded by Board Member Cathy Chidester.

Ayes 8: Alexander, Chidester, Ewald, Geiger, Glatt, Haberle, Ortiz, and Perez

MOTION APPROVED

- IX. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE**
- X. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE BOARD**
- XI. CLOSED SESSION REPORT - NONE**
- XII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

The Board meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m., and the next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., location to be determined (TBD).