



JOINT OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Tuesday, December 19, 2023, • 1:30 p.m.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Leslie Luke, County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office
Vincent Capelle, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities Association
Dayton Calhoun, (Vice-Chair), County of Los Angeles Fire Department
OPERATIONS ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Robert J. Weber, Chair, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Paul Villalobos, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association
Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8
OPERATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:
Adam Martinez, County of Los Angeles Department of Children Services
Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat 9
Vacant, At-Large Seat #10

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Leslie Luke, County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office
Scott England, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Lipin Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Vincent Capelle, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Ted Pao, Chair, Los Angeles County Sheriff
Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities Association
TECHNICAL ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Robert J. Weber, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:
Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #9
Vacant, At-Large Seat #10

OFFICERS PRESENT:
Alternate Chair Robert J. Weber, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Nadine Luscombe, LA-RICS Project Team Member for Committee Secretary, Beatriz Cojulun



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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Operations Committee Chair Lieutenant Robert Weber called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL

Nadine Luscombe took roll call and acknowledged a quorum was present for both Joint Operations and the Technical Committees.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber welcomed the new Operations Alternate Committee Member, Lieutenant Paul Villalobos from the City of Monterey Park Police Department, representing the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (A)

A. November 14, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked the Committees for approval of the minutes. Operations Technical Lead Ted Pao motioned first, seconded by Joint Committee Member Leslie Luke.

Operations Committee:

Ayes (7): Luke, Calhoun, Weber, Capelle, Villalobos, Nelson, Walczak.

Technical Committee:

Ayes (8): Luke, England, Weber, Tan, Capelle, Pao, Nelson, Walczak.

MOTION APPROVED

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

There was no public comment.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE

There were no Consent Calendar items.

VI. REPORTS (B – E)

B. Land Mobile Radio System Update – Brian Smyth



Project Director Smyth reported the Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) has transitioned to a Shared Calendar that shows all current Project Management (PM) Activities, Software Updates, Site Access Requests, etc. Project Director Smyth further reported the Shared Calendar has been developed in Smartsheet Inc. and is accessed using the web. Project Director Smyth went on to say the Shared Calendar accepts input from LA-RICS, Motorola Solutions, Incorporated (MSI) and the County of Los Angeles (County) Internal Services Department (ISD), as well as any other parties. Project Director Smyth went on to add that agencies that need to book events on the Shared Calendar go through input forms that post event requests, which requests are formally accepted after review.

Project Director Smyth said that in November 2023 there was progress with the Final Year Warranty Plan that began on November 17, 2023 and would run through November 17, 2024. Program Director Smyth further said the PM team and Technical team were working on methods and procurement for oversight of Warranty Phase Monitoring and Activities, one side is data analysis and the other side being field report observations.

Program Director Smyth mentioned the Ongoing Preventative Maintenance of PM activities, such as generators Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) and electrical systems, fuel polishing, fire protection systems, testing and certification including refueling activities are being tracked.

Program Director Smyth said that Record Documents have been delivered to twenty-four (24) out of forty-eight (48) sites along with service stepladders.

Program Director Smyth mentioned the Green Mountain (GRM) site is still on Short-term Power and the PM team is working to finalize the permit and commence construction. Program Director Smyth further mentioned a meeting with State Parks and the City of Los Angeles (City) Department of Water and Power (LADWP) that took place and discussed follow-up activities at GRM.

Program Director Smyth informed the Joint Committees that LADWP was in the process of researching the easement and Right of Entry (ROE) permit which LA-RICS holds. Program Director Smyth further informed the Joint Committees that since LA-RICS has allowed LADWP to work under the permit, providing they extend to LA-RICS, the indemnity and insurance coverage which in turn, will be granted to California State Parks. Program Director Smyth said that a follow-up meeting would take place in the New Year.



Program Director Smyth stated that regarding Site Access Roads, there continues to be road blockage and damage issues. Project Director Smyth went on to say that Pine Mountain (PMT) site had a tree blocked access which was removed by the United States Forest Services (USFS).

Project Director Smyth stated that at Frost Peak (FRP), the ski resort at Mountain High closed the road as of November 3, 2023.

Project Director Smyth reported that Whitaker Middle Peak (WMP) site is still inaccessible and has a significant scope of work for repairing that site.

Project Director Smyth stated USFS is willing to repair it and the schedule for repair is yet to be determined.

Project Director Smyth talked about the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and that current Variances expire at the end of 2023. Project Director Smyth stated the clock starts again on January 1, 2024, and that logging provided by remote monitoring would synchronize with values shown on the non-resettable meter on the generator. Project Director Smyth said the PM Team is developing a process to align these values per SCAQMD's request.

Project Director Smyth said that Tower Peak (TWR) migration activities were completed in November 2023. Project Director Smyth went on to say the Invitation for Bid (IFB) issued for the demolition of the old communication tower and the Bid Due Date is to be determined. Project Director Smyth believes the goal is to have the work done on Catalina Island before the fox pupping season, which begins in March 2024.

Project Director Smyth provided December Focus items, which included a new Task Tracker for all activities that need to be followed up on are placed into a Smartsheet. Project Director Smyth said the PM team developed another tracker for generator usage with daily logs.

Project Director Smyth said the management of door alarms has transferred from the vendor to the Authority. Project Director Smyth said site access will be requested through the Network Operations Center (NOC) to suppress alarms if needed and the PM team is tracking visits in the Shared Calendar.

Project Director Smyth said the PM team has been updating a Road Repair responsibility matrix showing a record of people who have helped in the past with road repairs.



Project Director Smyth concluded by saying that Fuel Polishing is being done at the high-altitude sites first, due to the fuel gelling at lower temperatures. Project Director Smyth mentioned that Fire Inspections have been completed.

Project Director Smyth concluded his report. There were no questions or comments.

C. Regional Interoperability Update – Operations Lead Lt. Weber

Operations Lead Lt. Weber reported the Authority continues to meet with the regional partners, with the next scheduled meeting to be on January 26, 2024, to discuss how the Systems will be connected.

D. LMR Network Operation Status and Issues– Technical Lead Ted Pao

Technical Lead Ted Pao reported the LA-RICS JPA achieved a significant milestone on November 17, 2023, with the Final LMR System Acceptance. Technical Lead Pao further reported the accomplishment signifies a pivotal moment in which the LA-RICS is now managing one of the largest and most intricate Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Systems. Technical Lead Pao went on to add that it also comes with voicing multiband capability and Project twenty-five (P-25) digital trunking including analog conventional channel capability countywide. Technical Lead Pao mentioned that while the primary focus has been the completion of the LMR System, the internal operations policy, workload process and system management were purposely deferred until reaching the final system acceptance.

Technical Lead Pao explained that with these tasks now accomplished, the Authority's attention now shifts to refining and evolving existing processes to enhance operational efficiency to meet the demands of the customer and to ensure the sustainment of the LMR System.

Technical Lead Pao stated that over the next twelve (12) months, the emphasis is addressing all operational issues to ensure a single and efficient transition into an operational Phase.

Technical Lead Pao talked about the November 2023 challenges, such as windstorm events particularly at Magic Mountain Link (MML) where gusts reached up to one hundred and thirty (130) miles per hour. Technical Lead Pao added these events pose a threat not only to the structural and equipment's integrity, but also to the backup electrical system due to public



safety power shutoffs by the utility companies. Technical Lead Pao expressed that despite these challenges, all weather and power impacted sites operated without issues. Technical Lead Pao noted no incident affecting equipment or system performance were reported and only a few sites approaching or surpassing the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) allowable yearly operational hours.

Technical Lead Pao claimed it was a testament to the robustness of the LA-RICS System and meticulous planning that weathered the storms which underscored the resiliency of our LMR System in the face of adverse conditions.

Technical Lead Pao presented slides representing the top ten (10) Talkgroups for October and November 2023. Technical Lead Pao stated they are similar to last month's results and showed that there was less talk time in November 2023 than October 2023. Technical Lead Pao added the Top fifteen (15) sites used during October and November 2023 showed that overall, the talk time had slightly decreased for November 2023 and the busiest sites were the Downtown cells, for instance, the seven hundred (700) cells, Ultra High Frequency (UHF) and the South cells.

Technical Lead Pao stated the Talkgroups served by the Top Fifteen (15) sites and the downtown cells for November 2023 served two hundred and sixteen (216) Talkgroups. Technical Lead Pao further said the South 700 cells served one hundred and ninety-three (193) Talkgroups. Technical Lead Pao went on to say the downtown cells had the most Talkgroups and as a result, had the most minutes.

Technical Lead Pao said regarding the Top Agency use in November 2023, the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's (County) Department's (LASD) Talkgroup remained at the top and the County of Los Angeles (County) Fire (LACoFD) Talkgroup was next with Inglewood Police Department (IGPD), (DA) Sofi Stadium afterwards.

Technical Lead Pao concluded his report, there were no questions.

E. Regional Interoperability for Fire and Law Enforcement Coordination and Standard Operating Procedures – Lt. Robert Weber and Technical Lead Ted Pao

Operations Lead Lt. Robert Weber said the next Agenda Item E was a presentation and open discussion with the Committee members about



establishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) among the regional agencies.

Technical Lead Pao stated the presentation was shown to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Interoperability Workgroup for the purpose of introducing some of the Interoperable Talkgroups and channels that LA-RICS has implemented.

Technical Lead Pao said the first group set up was the Inter Subsystem Interface (ISSI) and is currently connected with the Interagency Communications Interoperability (ICI) Agency and between LA-RICS and ICI. Technical Lead Pao further said the Authority plans to do the same thing with the City of Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), Port of Los Angeles (POLA), and the City of Long Beach. Technical Lead Pao further said the Authority is lining up regional channels on the system to enable all agencies to be operating on the same Talkgroups.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber noted that either County Fire Department (LACoFD) or Law Enforcement using the ICI system is an avenue to use. Operations Lead Lt. Weber added next year, in 2024 the Authority would focus on setting the system up with our partners for the purpose of availability and training.

Technical Lead Pao stated this is being expanded on thirty-two (32) Talkgroups based on the need of the region, to become regional Talkgroups.

Technical Lead Pao mentioned the benefits of having these Talkgroups is we do not necessarily have to have all radios programmed for all the Interoperable Talkgroups, if the console recognizes these interoperable Talkgroups they can do a patch from the regional Talkgroup to a tactical channel or dispatch channel. That is the benefit of today's connection. However, it is the goal that all radios will have the mutual aid channels so they can switch directly on their radios vs. relying on the patch. Technical Lead Pao stated for now the easiest path is to patch using the ISSI regional Talkgroup.

Extensive discussion ensued among the Operations and Technical Committee members. The discussion included the use of ISSI and patch connections vs. radio programming in both active dynamic as well as pre-planned events including the importance of interoperability among Fire and Law Enforcement disciplines. Additionally the Committee Members discussed incorporating lessons from Fire's established and proven



processes for interoperability and expanding those to interoperability among Fire and Law Enforcement. After much discussion the Committee chairs requested members of the joint committees submit designees to serve on ad-hoc committee of this body to develop and propose policies and procedures for achieving interoperability in the region. Nominations can be sent to rjweber@lasd.org with the goal of convening the first ad-hoc committee meeting in January of 2024.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – NONE

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE – NONE

X. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE

XI. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Operations Lead Lt. Weber called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Joint Committee Meeting, to which Joint Committee Member Capelle motioned first.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber adjourned the Regular Joint Operations and Technical Committee Meeting at 2:50 p.m. and stated the next Joint Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., at the LA-RICS Headquarters, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200, Large Conference Room, Monterey Park, California, 91754.