



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRI VALLEY CITIES JOIN EAST BAY REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

The cities of Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Ramon have taken the initial steps to join the East Bay Regional Communications System (EBRCS). EBRCS is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) comprised of public agencies within Alameda and Contra Costa counties, that has developed a plan to implement a two-county (P25 compliant) radio communications system. "The key to the successful response and mitigation of any type of disaster that could impact the Bay region is a coordinated communications system," said Alameda County Project Manager Bill McCammon. The East Bay Regional Communications System will provide public safety and general government communications for day to day operations and will serve as an interoperable system in region wide emergencies.

The two-year collaboration to develop the system among the different public safety disciplines and political structures within both counties is unprecedented. A task force of elected officials, public safety professionals and city managers developed the EBRCS JPA governance model which represents a balanced approach to managing the system.

The organization is at an important juncture where establishing the EBRCS JPA is a necessary first step in order to secure federal grants to offset the enormous infrastructure costs for the regional system. The total system cost (exclusive of local agency radio costs) is estimated at just over \$60M. Over \$17M in federal grants have been secured for the system backbone, and associated infrastructure to support the build-out of the system. The EBRCS continues to work with regional partners including San Francisco and Santa Clara Counties to obtain funding through additional federal grants for the system infrastructure.

In recent trips to Washington, D.C., Tri-Valley Mayors and City Council members met with Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and Representatives Tauscher and McNerney, who reaffirmed the need to form the JPA, and offered support to obtain federal funding. While the Tri-Valley cities requested \$2.3M for the EBRCS project in FY 2008, federal funding for such projects is very competitive. Recently, Senator Boxer supported the project by providing \$300,000 in the FY 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill. Both Representatives Tauscher and McNerney, also support this project.