



East Bay Regional Communications System Authority



Participating agencies include Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and the following cities and special districts: Alameda, Albany, Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, Concord, Danville, Dublin, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Hercules, Lafayette, Livermore, Martinez, Moraga, Newark, Oakley, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Pleasanton, Richmond, San Leandro, San Pablo, San Ramon, Union City, Walnut Creek, East Bay Regional Park District, Kensington Police Community Services District, Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

MINUTES

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 15, 2008



1. Call to Order/Roll Call:

A special meeting of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority Operations Committee was held on Friday, August 15, 2008, in Room 1013 of the Alameda County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, 4985 Broder Boulevard, Dublin, CA. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chair Ahern.

Present: *Committee members Ahern, Attarian, Casten (Alternate for Cm. Rupf), Cody, Dunbar (Alternate for Cm. Kirkland), and Roderick*

Absent: *Committee member Richter*

Staff Present: *Executive Director Bill McCammon and Secretary Fawn Holman*

2. Comments from the Public

No comments were made by any member of the public at this time.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of July 1, 2008

On motion of Cm. Cody, seconded by Cm. Roderick and by unanimous vote, the Committee approved the minutes of the July 1, 2008, Operations Committee meeting.

4. Review and Discuss CTA Communications Initialization Documents for the EBRCSA Study

Executive Director McCammon distributed the CTA Communications initialization documents and advised a kickoff conference call would be held next week. There would be many agency group meetings and site visits to discuss concerns and issues regarding current communications systems. It was important to keep CTA moving forward because their work included the development of important budget information. CTA would also be working concurrently on the Solano and Oakland studies.

5. Continue Discussion of Definitions of Terms of Member Agency vs Subscriber Agency, as well as Methods to Accept New Agencies into the EBRCSA, from July 1, 2008 Special Meeting

Executive Director McCammon advised that the Finance Committee wanted specific language developed to define new members that included founding members and those members that would be responsible for financing infrastructure, as opposed to agencies that come in at a later date. The exact language would be provided to the Committee at its next meeting.

The Committee and Staff discussed that the Operations Committees' other recommendations related to this issue would be incorporated into the overall document that merged both committees' discussions on the topic. The document would be reviewed by both committees before going to the full Board for consideration.

6. Receive Verbal Status Update on Problems with Digital Radios in a High Noise Environment and the IAFC's Establishment of a Working Group to Investigate and Evaluate the Issues

Executive Director McCammon advised that the Operations Committee had discussed the problems experienced with digital radios in high noise at its last meeting and noted that, since then, radio vendors had solved some of the problems and were putting a lot of effort to resolve the issues, there continues to be problems with Scott SCBA's, and their low air signal that sounds inside the face piece. Executive Director McCammon made contact with Motorola at the APCO conference to discuss the problem and they offered to provide 4 or 5 of the new radios with the noise suppressing software. Testing of the new radios will be done throughout the Bay Area in order to boost agency confidence.

Cm. Cody distributed a copy of a news article related to digital radio concerns and passed around a new breathing apparatus with two voice amplification ports which will substantially improve the voice reproduction outside of the mask. Everyone in the industry is working together to solve the problems.

7. Receive Update of Grants Status (PSIC, COPS, SUASI)

Executive Director McCammon distributed a handout showing the status of the 2007 SUASI Funding Allocations and advised that interoperability funding to the East Bay would be a total of \$1,196,850. Contra Costa County would receive its share directly and Alameda County's allocation would go directly to the EBRCSA. Additional funding for the Solano County and Oakland studies would also come directly to the EBRCSA.

Executive Director McCammon distributed and reviewed the Grant Funding Financial Overview handout and advised that the total grant dollars had gone down. PSIC funds may go down because the City of Oakland may receive a portion of this funding. The Finance Committee recently directed Staff to prepare a staff report for Board consideration recommending that letters be written to federal legislators requesting that legislation be changed so that the EBRCSA was represented on the SUASI approval authority.

The Committee and Staff discussed the grant funding status and agreed that the 2008 SHSGP funds needed to be reflected in the chart. It was also noted that some of Contra Costa County numbers needed to be updated on the chart, as well, before it was put on the website.

8. Receive Project Status Update

Executive Director McCammon distributed a handout outlining work progress to-date and briefly reviewed the status of each site. During the recent Finance Committee meeting, it was noted that the Highland Peak land had been purchased, so the chart would need to be updated to reflect that change. The sites which showed work "TBD" would also be changed to reflect "Pending Funding" instead.

The Committee and Staff discussed the project status chart and agreed that any updates not reflected on the chart should be forwarded to the Executive Director for inclusion prior to it being posted on the website.

- 9. Consider Executive Director Recommendation to Cancel Regular Meeting of September 5, 2008, Due to Lack of Actionable Items**
On motion of Cm. Roderick, seconded by Cm. Attarian and by unanimous vote, the Committee cancelled the regular Operations Committee meeting of September 5, 2008.
- 10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
- *Continue discussions related to Member Agency vs Subscriber Agency*
- 11. Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m. The next regular Operations Committee meeting will be held on October 3, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the Alameda County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, 4985 Broder Boulevard, Dublin, CA 94568. (Note, the Regular Operations Committee meeting of September 5, 2008, has been cancelled.)

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE EAST BAY REGIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE THIS 3rd DAY OF OCTOBER, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



Fawn Holman
Secretary