



To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority

From: Barry Fraser, Interim General Manager

Date: January 10, 2013

Re: Item #9: Report from the Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communications System Joint Powers Authority (BayRICS Authority)

Recommendations:

Receive and File Report

Action or Discussion Items:

Report from the Interim General Manager of the BayRICS Authority on the activities and progress of the BayRICS Authority for the month of November 2012.

Discussion/Description:

Staff activities in December were focused on two outreach efforts to the FirstNet Board.:

1. FirstNet Board Meeting

On Tuesday December 11, BayRICS Chair Rich Lucia and Barry Fraser attended the second FirstNet Board meeting in Washington DC. At this meeting, FirstNet adopted several administrative resolutions, formally established the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) and appointed members Craig Farrill as acting general manager and Jeff Johnson to lead public safety outreach efforts. The Board also heard presentations on the NTIA's Notice of Inquiry responses, BTOP grantee project review updates, General Manager search update and a presentation on mobile applications for public safety.

The Board indicated that a sub-group of FirstNet Board members was conducting meetings with each of the seven BTOP public safety grantees to review their respective projects. Highlights of the meetings with Charlotte, North Carolina and Mississippi were provided. The Board suggested that it may begin making decisions on the future of these projects as early as January 2013. A webcast of the meeting and supporting materials are available at this web site:

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2012/12112012-firstnet-board-meeting-documents-and-webcast-archive>

Staff also met with NTIA staff and public safety officials from other parts of the country, including Harlin McEwen and other members of the PSAC Executive Committee.

2. FirstNet Meeting to Review BTOP Grant Project

On December 18, BayRICS participated in a BTOP review meeting between a sub-group of the FirstNet Board and BTOP grantee Motorola. FirstNet members Bill Keever and Jeff Johnson participated in this meeting. Mr. Keever is a retired telecommunications industry executive and Chief Johnson is Chief Executive Officer of the Western Fire Chiefs Association and a retired fire chief from Oregon.

BayRICS Chair Lucia, Vice Chair Karen Wong, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Ahsan Baig, Vice Chair Michelle Geddes and Barry Fraser represented BayRICS at the meeting. Lance Johnson, NTIA, and Jeff Clark, a consultant for the FirstNet Board, also attended.

BayRICS staff provided a comprehensive report from the BayRICS perspective on the BayWEB project, including background, accomplishments to date, technical challenges, business plan challenges, site access challenges, lessons learned, and lessons that could be learned if the project is allowed to continue. At their request, staff provided detailed information on public safety applications expected to be available on the system, and the processes that must be developed by the TAC to manage applications, provisioning, priority/preemption and other tasks that require local management.

Staff described a proposed path forward and aspirations for the network, with the message that BayRICS members are willing to be flexible with the project's future, and wish to engage FirstNet as a partner and seek guidance from the experts on the FirstNet Board as to how this project should proceed. We also explained the limitations in geographic coverage of the proposed network, and urged FirstNet to consider an early deployment model that would allow expansion of the pilot network to provide service throughout the Bay Area.

FirstNet representatives were engaged in the discussion, asked lots of questions and were very interested in our potential to draw on the high-tech brain trust in the Bay Area for public safety applications development. The delegation told us they hoped to have a recommendation to NTIA in January or February. They stressed that the final decision on the BTOP grant will be with the NTIA, and they also stressed the importance of a commercial carrier component as part of any system deployed (to the extent required by the FirstNet legislation).

We also took Chief Johnson and Mr. Keever on a brief tour of the San Francisco 9-1-1- Call Center, as part of a discussion of opportunities to work with the State to use BayWEB to test new applications for Next Generation 9-1-1.

BayRICS Board Meetings: The BayRICS Authority Board of Directors will hold its next meeting on January 10, 2013 at 1:30 PM at the Alameda County Sheriff OES in Dublin.