



To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority

From: Barry Fraser, Interim General Manager

Date: February 14, 2013

Re: Item #10: 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 January 2012.

Discussion/Description:

Staff activities in January are summarized below.

1. Sites and Backhaul Status

Jurisdictions are continuing to qualify sites through the zoning approval process, where required. Currently, Sonoma County and Contra Costa County sites are generally in good shape, and City and County of San Francisco sites are expected to be finalized in early 2013. Other jurisdictions are in differing stages of the process. Staff has reengaged with BART to finalize the BART fiber and site use agreement, with meetings proposed for February.

2. Regional and State Planning for FirstNet

The State of California is working with Cal EMA to schedule public forums with stakeholders to discuss the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, FirstNet and organizing California's governance structure to support network development in the state. These meetings will be set for later in the year.

BayRICS has been informed that the FirstNet Board is currently evaluating all BTOP projects and reviewing the information collected at each of these in-person meetings. BayRICS anticipates receiving additional instructions from FirstNet regarding the future of the BayWEB

project with the next two weeks. The presentation from the December 18, 2012 meeting between BayRICS and FirstNet is available on the BayRICS web site at:
http://www.bayrics.net/uploads/1/2/4/6/12466172/firstnet_presentation_v5_final.pdf.

3. Financial Audit:

An accounting firm hired by the BayRICS Authority has completed the FY 2011-2012 annual audit, as required in Section 3.03 of the BayRICS Joint Powers Authority Agreement. The audit is available on the BayRICS Authority web site at:
http://www.bayrics.net/uploads/1/2/4/6/12466172/bayrics_fy_12_audit_report_-_1-25-2013.pdf.

4. Regional Pooled Procurement of P25 Mobile and Portable Radios

At the November 1, 2012 meeting, BayRICS Directors proposed an innovative idea to encourage competitive pricing for P25 mobile and portable radios for the Bay Area, by implementing a pooled procurement process. Pooling procurement would leverage the buying power of the region by allowing bulk purchases of radios at a greater discount price than what individual jurisdictions can negotiate standing alone. San Mateo County is currently in the process of procuring mobile and portable devices, so staff sent inquiries on behalf of San Mateo County to other BayRICS members to determine if they had any interest in pooled procurement.

Most members responded that the idea was good in concept, but the timing of radio purchases created problems with pooling to meet the short deadlines of San Mateo County's procurement. For example, several jurisdictions had just completed or were nearly complete with large radio procurements, and were too far along in their process to consider other alternatives. Other jurisdictions had no plans to purchase radios in the near future.

Many members indicated that they would be interested in considering a pooled procurement approach as part of a long-term device replacement plan. At the January 10, 2013 BayRICS meeting staff was directed to conduct more research be conducted on this proposal, and be incorporated as part of any regional communications planning efforts that the Board may consider in the future.

5. Request for Qualifications for Technical Consulting Services

On October 19, 2012, BayRICS issues a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Technical Consulting Services. The application submission period closed on November 27, 2012 and resulted in the submission of 10 applications. These applications are currently being evaluated by a panel of TAC members and Bay Area technical experts, with a final list of qualified consultants expected to be complete by the February Board Meeting. This list of qualified vendors may be used, subject to BayRICS approval, to award one or more contracts for technical consulting services, based on the availability of funding.

6. T Band Spectrum Givebacks

At the November 1, 2012 Board meeting, staff provided a report on the public safety "T-Band" spectrum (480-512MHz) givebacks mandated under the Spectrum Act. The Board directed staff to report back with additional research on T-Band needs and usage by member jurisdictions. Staff solicited information about T-Band usage from members and reported back to the BayRICS Board at the January 10, 2013 meeting.

The responses indicate differing levels of reliance on the T-Band, with several Counties indicating no T-Band usage by public safety (San Francisco, Sonoma, Oakland), while other

jurisdictions indicate moderate to heavy usage of the T Band (Marin, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties). While the impact of a mandated giveback varies by agency, it is evident that the giveback could potentially affect thousands of public safety users in the Bay Area. At the same time the funding, timetable and process to implement the giveback requirements are uncertain. Moreover, comparable spectrum bands for the relocation of these public safety radio services have not been identified, and available spectrum remains a scarce commodity.

Staff recently participated in a conference call with FCC Public Safety Bureau staff, and was informed that a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the T Band givebacks would be issued by the Commission very soon. Staff will continue to monitor the issue and will provide recommendations for a response by the Authority at the appropriate time.

7. Regional Voice Communications Capabilities

At the November 1, 2012 BayRICS Meeting, staff was asked to investigate the potential role for BayRICS in the coordination of regional interoperable voice communications projects. Staff conducted a series of meetings with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), UASI Management Team and UASI Interoperability Work Group to discuss the needs of the regional voice projects and potential ways for BayRICS to address these needs.

At the January 10, 2013 meeting the Board directed staff to develop a report to assess the need for regional voice communications coordination, including the current status of the four P25 sub-regional projects, current regional funding efforts, the potential role of the BayRICS Authority and potential costs to the Authority, such as staff time and resources, required to assume such a role. Staff is in the process of developing this report.

8. BayLoop Extended Maintenance and Network Monitoring

Staff and members of the BayLoop Working Group have completed negotiations with Aviat Networks, Inc. on a 12-month master Maintenance and Network Monitoring Agreement that includes maintenance services, technical support, corrective maintenance, preventive maintenance, and advanced Network Operations Center (NOC) services. A final draft of this agreement is available on the BayRICS web site at www.bayrics.net.

This item was continued from the January 10, 2013 Board meeting to resolve issues regarding current site status, equipment counts covered under the agreement and network monitoring connectivity of some equipment. Since that meeting, Aviat and BayLoop Counties have worked together to resolve these issues. Each BayLoop site has been visited by Aviat staff and assessed for current status, equipment count and connectivity. This additional preparation has resulted in more certainty and clarity in the scope of services to be provided under this agreement.

Funding to pay for the services provided under this agreement has been provided through Bay Area UASI grants. Staff has been advised by the UASI that it must enter into a sub-grantee agreement with another Bay Area UASI grantee in order to obtain the funding to pay for the maintenance and monitoring services. At the November meeting, the Board designated the County of Alameda as the sub-grantee for acceptance of UASI grant funding to pay Bayloop maintenance and monitoring costs covered in the Aviat Agreement. Staff will coordinate with Alameda County and UASI staff to ensure that all payments will be timely made.

9. APCO Emerging Technology Forum

Staff attended a workshop on January 31, 2013 that included presentations from FirstNet Board Members Kevin McGinnis and Craig Ferrill. Mr. Ferrill said that an announcement would be out very soon on the BTOP early builder's projects. He also stated that a user device Request for Information will be out in the next month to solicit information about mobile and portable devices that would be capable of operating on the public safety broadband spectrum. Chief McGinnis has an EMS background and gave a very good presentation on EMS applications/use of FirstNet.

Other panel topics included: Next Generation 9-1-1 status, cyber security, updates on certification of LTE equipment for public safety use and innovative new tools and applications for public safety.

10. Meeting with Japan National Police Agency

On February 4, staff met with Ikuro Nishimura and Akira Takasaigi with the Police Communications Research Center of Japan's National Police Agency. Staff briefed the delegation on the status and challenges of BayWEB, and heard reports on LTE broadband for public safety in Japan. The Japanese delegation reported many challenges similar in nature to the ones faced in the Bay Area. The delegation also provided insightful information on the communications challenges encountered in Japan after major earthquakes and tsunamis, including a revealing comparison of the impact of these disasters on commercial networks and public safety grade voice systems in Japan.

11. Next BayRICS Board Meeting: the BayRICS Board meets on Thursday February 14 at 1:30 PM at the Alameda County Sheriff OES, Room 1013.