To: **Bay Area UASI Approval Authority**

From: **Barry Fraser, Interim General Manager**

Date: **May 9, 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 March 2013.

Discussion/Description:

1. BayRICS Administration

The BayRICS Board of Directors will hold its next regular meeting at 1:30 PM on Thursday May 9 in Dublin. The Board is expected to take action on the following matters: (1) appointment of a permanent general manager for the BayRICS Authority; (2) interoperable voice communications status report; (3) budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014; (4) designation of the County of Alameda to serve as Treasurer of the BayRICS Authority; and (5) proposed changes to the Technical Advisory Committee to allow committee members to recommend Alternates to serve in the primary member's absence.

2. BayLoop

BayRICS staff has completed the process of collecting system and contact information and has established the connectivity to allow Aviat Networks to begin monitoring the BayLoop network. Staff should begin to receive network status reports this month. The BayRICS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will soon begin to develop a process for establishing and implementing BayLoop operating procedures, including a process for reviewing and approving regional applications to operate on the network. The TAC will address this process at its May

meeting. Once these processes are established, the network can begin supporting regional voice and data applications, including CopLink and Aries information sharing services.

3. BayRICS Interoperable Voice Communications Report

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 region's P25 voice projects and potential ways for BayRICS to address these needs.

At the January 10, 2013 meeting the BayRICS Board directed staff to develop a report to assess the need for regional voice communications coordination, the potential role of BayRICS and projected costs of assuming such a role. Staff, working with the TAC, has completed this report, which will be discussed at the May 9 BayRICS Board meeting.

The report describes, at a high level, the current status of Bay Area regional, interoperable voice communications capabilities and recommends specific short-term actions and long-term planning activities to enhance the region's voice capabilities. The report proposes the following recommendations for short term action:

1. Establish a forum for all P25 sub-system operators to meet and collaborate on a regular basis to share best practices for system funding and device procurement and develop policies for region-wide SOPs;
2. Develop a specific plan to provide funding alternatives and a timetable to complete the P25 systems;
3. Implement the Fleetmap Channel Guide and develop a process for updating the Guide on a regular basis;
4. Determine the need for, and if necessary, develop and implement roaming agreements and other standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the region;
5. Coordinate the development of regional voice communications training and exercises.

The report identifies the anticipated costs for the BayRICS Authority, as it considers a greater role in the coordination and enhancement of regional public safety communications capabilities. In order to meet the urgent, short-term needs identified in this report, the report recommends that BayRICS should begin to identify and secure funding sources necessary to accomplish these tasks.

This report should be viewed as a tool to guide future planning efforts, not only for BayRICS, but also for the entire Bay Area. Staff will recommend that the BayRICS Board accept the report and authorize the TAC and staff to distribute the report to Bay Area stakeholders. Staff and TAC representatives will request the opportunity to present the report at future meetings of the Approval Authority and Advisory Group,

4. FirstNet Planning

<u>Spectrum Lease Negotiations</u>

On February 12, 2013 the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board adopted a resolution finding that the Bay Area's BayWEB project, along with the other six BTOP grant projects, would provide substantial benefits to the development of the nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network. The resolution directed FirstNet Board member Sue Swenson to negotiate spectrum leases with each BTOP grantee. FirstNet determined that the spectrum lease is the necessary first step to lifting the BTOP funding suspension that would allow the BayWEB project to continue.

Since that time, the BTOP grant jurisdictions have met several times with Ms. Swenson and have reached agreement most of the remaining terms and conditions of the spectrum lease. Primary requirements of the lease include:

- Compliance with FCC Rules, Communications Act and minimum technical requirements of the Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability;
- Geographic scope of operations to be the geographic boundaries of the BayRICS members, with the ability to expand the geographic area upon mutual agreement;
- Eligible services defined;
- No lease fee requirements;
- Project will operate on both Public safety broadband spectrum and D Block spectrum (full 10x10 MHz)
- Project will be built and operated according to open, non-proprietary and commercially-available standards;
- A significant representation of the public safety entities within the geographic scope of operations intend to receive wireless communications services from the project;
- Lessee shall provide reasonable access to its operations, and shall facilitate the collection and sharing of information about its operations to FirstNet;
- Quarterly reporting requirements.

In addition, BayRICS staff has conducted individual conference calls with Ms. Swenson to discuss proposed "Key Learning Conditions," to assist FirstNet in planning for the nationwide network. Specific learning areas for the Bay Area include high power coverage in rural or wide area deployments, development of public safety applications, and other test scenarios that will help FirstNet develop and implement its plan for the nationwide network.

We anticipate negotiations to conclude in the next week as we attempt to meet the 90-day negotiations window set by FirstNet. After final details are resolved, the BayRICS Chair may set a special meeting later in the month to approve the lease.

BTOP Grant Extension

Motorola Solutions, Inc. has advised BayRICS that it has filed the required paperwork to extend the BTOP grant performance period to September 30, 2015 and that the NTIA has indicated that this extension would be granted.

FirstNet General Manager and Regional Consultation Workshops

At its meeting on April 23, 2013, the FirstNet Board announced the hiring of a full time General Manager, Bill D'Agostino, Jr. Mr. D'Agostino is an accomplished telecommunications and wireless industry executive, with 33 years of experience designing, operating and upgrading telecommunications networks, most recently with Verizon Wireless. The FirstNet press release is available here: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2013/firstnet-board-announces-hiring-bill-d-agostino-jr-general-manager.

In addition, the FirstNet Board announced a series of six Regional Consultation Workshops, including a workshop scheduled in San Francisco on May 29-30. These workshops will begin the formal consultation dialog between FirstNet and the States, and will allow FirstNet, to inform stakeholders on the status of FirstNet's vision and timeline. FirstNet has indicated that each Governor may appoint five representatives from the state and five from localities and tribes to participate.