



To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority

From: Barry Fraser, Interim General Manager

Date: December 13, 2012

Re: Item #11: 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:

BayRICS Authority activities in a number of key areas are described below.

1. Administration

The BayRICS Authority Board of Directors will hold its next meeting on January 10, 2013. Staff activities in November and December have included: (1) discussion of potential interest in BayRICS assuming a role in the review and recommendation of funding allocations for regional interoperable voice communications projects; (2) compiling information from member jurisdictions about subscriber mobile and portable P25 device procurement planning and interest in participating in regional pooled procurement efforts; (3) conducting a survey of members regarding T Band Spectrum usage and future needs, in preparation for the mandated T Band spectrum giveback established earlier this year in the Spectrum Act; and (4) outreach efforts to the FirstNet Board regarding the BayWEB project and BTOP grant partial funding suspension.

Financial Audit: An accounting firm hired by the BayRICS Authority is in the final stages of preparing an annual audit, as specified in Section 3.03 of the BayRICS Joint Powers Authority Agreement. Staff will provide copies of the audit to the Approval Authority when completed.

2. Sites and Backhaul Status

Jurisdictions are continuing to qualify sites through the zoning approval process, where required. However, site activities have slowed somewhat, due to a lack of clarity about FirstNet's programmatic goals and scaling back of Motorola efforts in order to preserve funding. Discussions with BART, CENIC and other fiber providers have slowed for similar reasons.

3. 700MHz Spectrum Waiver, Spectrum Act and FirstNet Update

FirstNet Board Update

BayRICS Authority Chair and staff will travel to Washington DC to attend the FirstNet Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday December 11. In addition, a sub-group of FirstNet Board members has set up a series of meetings with the seven BTOP public safety grantees to review their respective projects, including a meeting scheduled with Motorola on December 18. BayRICS Board Chair and Vice Chair and Technical Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair will represent BayRICS at this meeting.

FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 set out a requirement that the FirstNet Board establish a standing public safety advisory committee to assist it in carrying out its duties and responsibilities. FirstNet at its inaugural meeting in September adopted a resolution designating a subgroup of SAFECOM as its public safety advisory committee, and directed Chairman San Ginn to work with the Department of Homeland Security to establish the Committee and appoint the Chairman and Vice Chairs of the committee. On November 20, Chairman Ginn announced the appointment of four Vice Chairs of FirstNet's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC):

Chief Bill McCammon, Alameda County, California, representing the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association;
Paul Patrick, Salt Lake City, Utah, representing the National Association of State EMS Officials;
Heather Hogsett, Washington, D.C., representing the National Governors Association;
Tom Sorley, Houston, Texas, representing the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Chairman Ginn had previously announced the appointment of Chief Harlin McEwen as the Chairman of the PSAC. Chief McEwen represents law enforcement and, with the four Vice Chairs, will make up the PSAC Executive Committee. McEwen was previously the Executive Director of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust.

NTIA Notice of Inquiry (NOI)

BayRICS filed comments in response to the NTIA NOI on conceptual architecture model and applications development on November 6, 2012. Staff has also responded to FirstNet with responses to several questions about these comments. In addition, BayRICS staff and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Ahsan Baig participated in comments filed for the 21 former waiver recipients, who have renamed their group as the Early Builders Advisory Committee (EBAC). Those comments were filed on November 8, 2012, and have also generated specific responses from the FirstNet Board.