



**San Diego County – Imperial County  
Regional Communications System**

5595 Overland Avenue, Suite 101, MS-O56, San Diego, California 92123  
Phone (858) 694-3663 <http://www.rcs800mhz.org>

**NEXTGEN RCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

SAN DIEGO COUNTY – IMPERIAL COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 1:00 p.m.**

5500 OVERLAND AVE., ROOM 120  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Directors Graham Mitchell; John Boyce; Jeremiah Larson; Mike Sims; Brian Mitchell; Mike York; Joseph Bernal

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum - The following Directors were in attendance and a quorum was established:

Mr. Graham Mitchell, San Diego City/County Managers Association (Chair)  
Commander John Boyce, San Diego County Sheriff's Department  
Chief Jeremiah Larson, San Diego Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association  
Chief Mike Sims, San Diego Fire Chief's Association  
Chief Brian Mitchell, San Diego Fire Chief's Association  
Chief Mike York, IVECA  
Chief Joseph Bernal, IVECA

2. Welcome and Introduction – Mr. Graham Mitchell welcomed the group.
3. Purpose of the meeting is to conduct the business of the NextGen RCS Board of Directors.
4. Approval of the Nextgen RCS Board of Directors' Minutes for the Meeting of October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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*NextGen RCS Board of Directors*

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY - IMPERIAL COUNTY**  
*Graham Mitchell, City Manager, City of El Cajon (Chair) - Chief Brian Boggeln, Alpine Fire Protection District (Vice Chair)  
Commander Karen Mullins, San Diego County Sheriff's Office - Julie Jeakle, Interim Director, San Diego County Office of Emergency Services  
Chief Jeremiah Larson, El Cajon Police Department - Chief Dan Barron, San Marcos Fire Department – Deepak Kumar, Caltrans  
Chief Jimmy Duran, Brawley Police Department, IVECA - Chief Mike York, Brawley Fire Department, IVECA*

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Chief Sims, seconded by Chief Mitchell, the Board of Directors approved the Minutes for the Meeting of October 9, 2024.

AYES: Directors Graham Mitchell; John Boyce; Jeremiah Larson; Mike Sims; Brian Mitchell; Mike York; Joseph Bernal

5. Public Comments – There were no public comments.
6. Revenue/ Billing Update (October 2024 – January 2025)
  - 6.1 Network Operating Cost (NOC) Billing and Revenue – See attachment.
  - 6.2 Trust Fund Balance – See attachment.

*Discussion: Mr. Mitchell asked if the \$11,000 from the October 2024 billing owed by one agency or several. Mr. Tanciatco responded it is from several agencies, the agencies have been contacted and there are plans in place.*

7. Network Operations Update

- 7.1 Monthly Report (October 2024 – January 2025) – Mr. Dalton reported the following updates – See attachment.

*Discussion: Chief Sims inquired if the Border 2 fire affected any of the RCS radio sites. Mr. Dalton responded that RCS was in contact with CalFire and OES during the fire and no RCS sites were reported affected by the fire.*

*Chief Sims asked if busies were caused by technical issues. Mr. Dalton responded that the ASTRO 25 Stand-alone Repeater (ASR) sites are usually smaller channel counts. With the radios transmitting through Frequency Division Multiple Access (FDMA) and Time-Division Multiple Access (TDMA), FDMA takes up a whole channel allocation for communication versus TDMA, which splits the channel into two.*

*Chief York inquired if the Calexico ASR is an identified issue with that site having busies the last three months. Mr. Dalton responded that it is a common site for busies due to the volume of calls/agencies that go through the site, majority are on FDMA.*

8. Administrative Update

- 8.1 Training Update – Ms. Alvaro reported the following training updates:

Classes: October 2024 – January 2025, 13 classes were completed with 6 console classes and 7 field classes. 5 Console and 13 Field classes are scheduled and confirmed through September 2025.

In-work: There are currently 2 new Trainers in the interview/hiring process.

8.2 Updates – Mr. Brooks reported the following updates:

- Critical Wave Connection
  - Integrate LTE/broadband system into RCS Network
  - LTE network will be implemented March 2025 and following implementation, RCS will move forward with testing
  - Development of Billing for new LTE system and administrative task

*Discussion: Chief Mitchell inquired if LTE system will allow for radio channel access remotely through smart device on LTE/broadband. Mr. Brooks confirm that it is an application on smart device that acts like radio with Push-to-Talk (PTT). Chief York inquired how Critical Connect will be billed. Mr. Brooks responded once implemented, RCS staff will determine billing access for channel access.*

9. Major Projects Update

9.1 RCS Site Projects Status – Mr. Santiesteban reported the following updates:

- Milestones & Accomplishments: Air Conditioner Units Replacement Completed:
  - October 29, 2024 - Black Mountain Site (SD County)
  - October 31, 2024 - Lake San Marcos Peak Site
  - December 23, 2024 - Jojoba Site
  - January 4, 2025 - Banner Ranch Site
  - January 5, 2025 - Rams Hill & Chihuahua Sites
  - February 11, 2025 - Los Pinos Site
  - February 12, 2025 - Mountain Empire Site
- Generator Replacement Completed:
  - December 16, 2024 - Hendrix Peak Radio Site, ATS
- Radio Site Road Repair:
  - December 13, 2024 - Lyons Peak Site (Change Order #68 from NextGen RCS Project)
- Propane tank repair
  - January 6, 2025 - Lyons Peak Radio Site
- In-work:
  - Generator Replacement
    - North Peak Site, Palomar Site, Ocotillo Wells Site, Borrego Springs Site and Woodson Site.
  - Air Conditioner Unit Replacement RFQ in process for San Miguel Site and Sierra Rojo Site
- Plan Forward: Generator Replacement
  - Spring 2024 – Generator equipment delivery for Banner Ranch Site and Campo Site.

*Discussion: Mr. Mitchell inquire the cost for the road repair for Lyons Peak Site. Mr. Santiesteban responded estimated cost of the repair was \$152,000.*

*Chief Sims inquired what powers the site generators. Mr. Brooks responded that it is currently being powered by diesel and propane for the different sites.*

9.2 NextGen RCS Projects Status – Mr. Santiesteban reported the following updates:

- Milestones & Accomplishments:
  - Best Western Encinitas Site – Change Order #67, analyze RCS coverage of west simulcast to access needs for existing site.
  - Lyons Peak Site – Change Order #68, repair of damaged road access to site.
- In-work:
  - Black Mountain (San Diego) – Final Lease agreement pending from AT&T. Expected submittal to San Diego Board of Supervisors General Legislative session of May 20, 2025.

Budget: Current Balance for Phase 3 project is \$1.41 Million. Contingency balance is \$512,200, for an overall project balance total of \$1.93 million.

9.3 IVECA Projects – Mr. Schmidt reported the following updates:

- December 2024 – January 2025 Palo Verde Site, I.C., was in site trunking. Diagnosis was failure of T1 through telephone carriers AT&T and Frontier. Site was back to operations on January 20, 2025 at approximately 14:00hrs. Same issue has occurred many times before, IVECA is in contact with RCS San Diego and Frontier to replace T1 circuit.
- January 2025 – Sidewinder CHP Site was on site trunking, issue was resolved on January 24, 2025 at 17:00hrs back on operation.
- Approval Documents have been signed and sent to Aviat US Incorporated to raise the Brunt's Corner/Green Road Site dish elevation is in work to raise the dish from 20 foot to 82 foot and will be replacing feed line.
- December 19, 2024 – Installed telemetry to Black Mountain I.C. generator.
- I.C. Air Pollution Control District completed assessment of all IVECA Generators with no issues, IVECA will submit usage report to I.C. Air Pollution Control district end of February.

10. Consent Agenda

- 10.1 Request the RCS Board to approve Santa Ysabel Police Department to increase their radio limit from 5 to 20 radios.

10.2 Request the RCS Board to approve new mutual aid agreement with Air and Marine Operations, Yuma Air Branch for 10 radios.

10.3 Request the RCS Board to approve MCAS Miramar Fire Department to increase radios limit from 90 to 200 radios for mutual aid use.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Chief York, seconded by Chief Larson, the Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda 10.1 to 10.3.

AYES: Directors Graham Mitchell; John Boyce; Jeremiah Larson; Mike Sims; Brian Mitchell; Mike York; Joseph Bernal

## 11. Main Agenda

11.1 FY 2024-2025 Proposed Budget Presentation was presented by Ms. Pia – See attached.

11.2 Request the RCS Board approve the RCS Budget and increase of \$1 at \$30.50 in Network Operating Cost (NOC) for FY 2025-2026.

*Discussion: Mr. Mitchell inquired how many staff are assigned to RCS and to the County. Ms. Pia responded the same number of staff (49), is allocated and apportioned based on time worked for RCS and County, using previous fiscal year as a baseline. Mr. Mitchell and Chief York inquired if the ongoing labor contract negotiations will have a significant impact on the anticipated increase in Salary and Benefits. Mr. Brooks responded that if the final budget increased significantly, staff would bring this increase back to the RCS Board for re-approval of budget. Chief York inquired with the \$1 increase each year, if RCS will be on target reaching full cost recovery in 5-6 years, taking into consideration the inflation rates and rising costs each year. Mr. Brooks responded that the \$1 increase is at a reasonable level for now, factoring in the use of RCS Trust Fund, additional users in the system and interest rate incurred in the trust funds. RCS staff will monitor each year the \$1 rate increase to continue sustain operational costs and will adjust accordingly. Chief York also inquired how the \$3M minimum RCS BOD reserve was established and suggests for RCS Staff to review how much it costs now to replace a site to determine if the reserve is sufficient or needs to be increased. Mr. Mitchell recommends for a cost study to be done and presented to the Board at the next meeting.*

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Chief Sims, seconded by Chief York, the Board of Directors approved the FY 2024-2025 RCS Proposed Budget.

AYES: Directors Graham Mitchell; John Boyce; Jeremiah Larson; Mike Sims; Brian Mitchell; Mike York; Joseph Bernal

ON MOTION of Chief York, seconded by Chief Mitchell, the Board of Directors approved the increase of \$1 at \$30.50 in Network Operating Cost (NOC) for FY 2025-2026.

AYES: Directors Graham Mitchell; John Boyce; Jeremiah Larson; Mike Sims; Brian Mitchell; Mike York; Joseph Bernal

12. Roundtable

Chief Sims recommended for RCS to be involved in the Wildland Fire Training in May to provide general training/overview on RCS radio operations. Mr. Dalton mentioned that based on feedback from RCS instructors, there is a need for a stronger presence of Fire personnel as RCS Instructors as the majority of current instructors are from a Law Enforcement background.

13. End of Meeting – The meeting ended at 1:50 p.m.

**Next Board of Directors Meeting is on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.  
County Operations Center  
5500 Overland Avenue, Room 120, San Diego, CA 92123**



# Regional Communications System

## NETWORK OPERATION COST (NOC) BILLING AND REVENUE UPDATE

### OCTOBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

	Invoice	Revenue Received	Receivables	
			Balance	%
October	516,382	505,245	11,137	2.16%
November	509,944	444,303	65,641	12.87%
December	511,482	414,419	97,063	18.98%
January	513,013	-	513,013	100.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,050,822</b>	<b>\$ 1,363,967</b>	<b>\$ 686,854</b>	<b>33.5%</b>

### RCS TRUST FUND BALANCE

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>10,658,379</b>
LESS:	
OBLIGATED EXPENDITURES:	
Prior Years' Replacement Infrastructure/Improvement Projects	1,750,014
FY 24/25 Replacement Infrastructure/Improvement Projects	234,882
RCS BOD Minimum Reserve	3,000,000
	<u>4,984,896</u>
<b>PROJECTED AVAILABLE BALANCE AS OF January 31, 2025</b>	<b>5,673,483</b>



***Regional Communications System***

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

# PROPOSED BUDGET

OF THE

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY - IMPERIAL COUNTY  
REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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**RCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Wednesday, February 12, 2025



# Regional Communications System

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY - IMPERIAL COUNTY

### FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

#### Network Operating Cost (NOC) at \$30.50 for FY 2025-2026

#### Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Budget Summary

Projected O&M	\$	(10,057,535)
Projected NOC Revenue per radio & T1 Network Services Revenue	\$	7,311,540
Customer Infrastructure Payment Revenue	\$	1,253,689
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(1,492,306)</b>

#### RCS Infrastructure Budget Summary

Infrastructure Replacements / Improvements/ NextGen	\$	1,365,980
Requested Revenue from Trust Fund #61346	\$	(1,365,980)
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>

# FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

## REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (RCS)

### Proposed Revenue Projection

#### REVENUES

#### Network Operating Cost (NOC)

Network Operating Cost (NOC) Revenue	Radio Counts				Revenue			
	FY 24/25 Units (Budgeted)	FY25/26 Units (Proposed)	Change	Percent Change	FY 24/25 NOC Revenue (\$29.50/mo)	FY 25/26 NOC Revenue (\$30.50/mo)	\$ Change (@\$30.50)	Percent Chang (@\$30.50)
RCS Partner Agencies	11,063	<b>11,161</b>	98	0.9%	3,916,302	<b>\$ 4,084,926</b>	\$ 168,624	4.3%
County of San Diego	6,238	<b>6,278</b>	40	0.6%	2,208,252	<b>\$ 2,297,748</b>	\$ 89,496	4.05%
RCS Customer Agencies	2,297	<b>2,351</b>	54	2.4%	813,138	<b>\$ 860,466</b>	\$ 47,328	5.8%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19,598</b>	<b>19,790</b>	192	1.0%	6,937,692	<b>\$ 7,243,140</b>	<b>\$ 305,448</b>	4.4%
<b>T1 Network Services Revenue</b>					\$ 68,400	<b>\$ 68,400</b>		
<b>Total NOC and T1 Network Revenue</b>					<b>\$ 7,006,092</b>	<b>\$ 7,311,540</b>	<b>\$ 305,448</b>	<b>4.4%</b>

#### TRUST FUND REVENUE

FY 25/26 RCS Projected Revenue			Change	Percent Change
Trust Fund Revenue	FY 24/25 (Budgeted)	FY 25/26 (Proposed)		
RCS Customer Infrastructure Payments	\$ 1,207,062	\$ 1,253,689	\$ 46,627	3.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,207,062</b>	<b>\$ 1,253,689</b>	<b>\$ 46,627</b>	<b>3.9%</b>

\* Based on January 2025 Billing

# FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

## REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (RCS)

### Proposed Expenditure Projection

#### EXPENDITURES

Operations and Maintenance Budget Network Operating Cost (NOC Revenue)	FY 23/24 Budget	FY 23/24 Actuals	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 25/26 Proposed	FY24/25 AND FY 25/26 VARIANCE	Percent Change
Salary and Benefit Costs	5,175,570	4,534,357	5,597,541	<b>6,193,036</b>	595,495	10.6%
Services and Supplies	1,938,536	1,468,358	1,689,306	<b>1,483,915</b>	(205,391)	-12.2%
Telephone	25,000	20,197	25,000	<b>25,000</b>	-	0.0%
Vehicle Maintenance	213,390	260,244	224,885	<b>314,937</b>	90,052	40.0%
Rents, Leases, and Facility Operating Costs (FOC)	1,880,080	1,727,108	1,955,258	<b>2,040,647</b>	85,389	4.4%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 9,232,576</b>	<b>\$ 8,010,264</b>	<b>\$ 9,491,990</b>	<b>\$ 10,057,535</b>	<b>\$ 565,545</b>	<b>5.96%</b>

#### TRUST FUND EXPENDITURES

Infrastructure Replacement/Improvement Budget (Trust Fund)	FY 23/24 Budget	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 25/26 Proposed
(NextGen) Admin Analyst Part-Time	107,606	116,162	<b>122,771</b>
NextGen Overtime	75,000	25,000	<b>25,000</b>
Generators with ATS (3)	525,000	600,000	
Mobile generator (1)			<b>100,000</b>
AC Replacement (10)	120,000	150,000	<b>166,000</b>
RCS Site Relocations/Acquisitions (planning costs)	30,000	30,000	<b>30,000</b>
NextGen Backhaul Configuration	50,000	50,000	<b>50,000</b>
Transportable Radio Facility (TRF)	1,000,000		
Consultant for Radio Frequency Engineering	300,000		
UPS Units (10)		125,000	<b>505,000</b>
Cisco Enterprise ASR903 MPLS Routers Refresh Upgrades (30)		750,000	
Dehydrators (20)		90,000	<b>90,000</b>
Gate installation (Pala)		25,000	
Road improvement (Lyons)		100,000	
Critical Connect for LTE		100,000	
NextGen Interest Payment Variance		277,209	<b>277,209</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 2,207,606</b>	<b>\$ 2,438,371</b>	<b>\$ 1,365,980</b>

Operation and Maintenance Cost Variance	1,278,600	1,278,837	1,492,306
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