



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

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

SAN DIEGO COUNTY – IMPERIAL COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, May 14, 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; Karen Mullins; Stephen Rea; Jeremiah Larson;
Brian Boggeln; Mike Sims; Jason Akbari; 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 Karen Mullins, San Diego County Sheriff's Office
Stephen Rea, County of San Diego
Chief Jeremiah Larson, San Diego Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association
Chief Brian Boggeln, San Diego Fire Chief's Association
Chief Mike Sims, San Diego Fire Chief's Association
Chief Joseph Bernal, IVECA
Jason Akbari, Caltrans

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 February 12th, 2025.

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 Mike York, Brawley Fire Department, IVECA - Chief Jimmy Duran, Brawley Police Department, IVECA*

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Chief Sims, seconded by Mr. Rea, the Board of Directors approved the Minutes for the Meeting of February 12, 2025.

AYES: Directors Graham Mitchell; Karen Mullins; Stephen Rea; Jeremiah Larson; Brian Boggeln; Mike Sims; Joseph Bernal; Jason Akbari

5. Public Comments – There were no public comments.
6. Revenue/ Billing Update (February 2025 – April 2025) – Ms. Alvaro reported the following updates.
 - 6.1 Network Operating Cost (NOC) Billing and Revenue – See attachment.
 - 6.2 Trust Fund Balance – See attachment.
7. Network Operations Update
 - 7.1 Monthly Report (October 2024 – January 2025) – Mr. Dalton reported the following updates – See attachment.

Discussion: Mr. Akbari inquired on how often UPS are replaced. Mr. Brooks responded that they are on a 15-year life cycle.

Chief Sims inquired if the increase call count for each month is a normal trend. Mr. Dalton responded that February 2025 call count has increased by 1%, March 2025 decreased by 20%, and April 2025 decreased 15% from the 4-year average and does depend on events occurring at those different times.

8. Administrative Update
 - 8.1 Training Update – Ms. Farr reported the following training updates:

Classes: February 2025 – As of April 2025, 15 classes were completed with 331 individuals trained. All instructor contracts have been signed for the rest of the year.

In-work: Currently researching different methods of digital tracking for the classes.

Discussion: Mr. Mitchell inquired where we source RCS contracted instructors. Ms. Farr responded most that most of the trainers are dispatchers and some who have had dispatcher experience. Mr. Dalton added there is a vetting process to onboard each trainer, attending classes and train with the trainer.

Chief Larson inquired if any of the training is offered online. Ms. Farr responded that RCS is currently looking at online options, however, the trainers do prefer in person due to it being easier for them to answer questions and be more hands on. Mr. Dalton added online options are being discussed with the trainers to best fit the needs of the customers. Mr. Brooks then added RCS is exploring 4 hour online prerequisite class.

- 8.2 Budget – Mr. Brooks reported the following updates:

Salaries and Benefits: During the February 12th meeting, RCS Board inquired if the

Salaries and benefits was a preliminary number. Numbers decreased from 10.8% to 10.6%.

RCS will open be adding (1) Administrative Analyst that will be assigned inventory and RCS training.

Trust Fund Balance: \$3 million is still the recommended amount for minimum trust fund balance to repair/replace single site upon catastrophic failure.

9. Major Projects Update

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

- Milestones & Accomplishments: Generator Completed:
 - Borrego Springs 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

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

- In-work:
 - Black Mountain (San Diego) – Final Lease agreement pending from AT&T. Expected submittal to San Diego Board of Supervisors.

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.

Discussion: Mr. Brooks added the Black Mountain Site tower replacement documents will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors and presented to the RCS Board in August 2025.

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

- March 18, 2025 – Work was started to raise the elevation of the Brunt's Corner/Green Road Site tower from 20.5 feet to 88 feet due to palm fronds obstructions. At the same time the wave guide for the main microwave dish was replaced. IVECA is working with Aviat for proper alignment for dish.
- Mid-April 2025 – Microwave anomalies between the I.C. Sheriff's Site to Holtville Site. Issue has not been identified after investigation. Aztec has been contacted for quote to investigate further to find issue.
- Summer weathers in I.C. will be above average and IVECA will pay extra attention to the HVAC units for the I.C. radio sites with preventative maintenance measures. Maintenance will start in the next week.

10. Consent Agenda - None

11. Main Agenda - *None*

12. Presentation – Mr. Brooks reported the following:

- RCS Presentation and Updates – See attachment.

Discussion:

Mr. Kumar inquired what is the capacity of the system with new users. Mr. Brooks responded the system was originally designed to have 0.1% availability (1 busy out of 1000 calls), system is currently performing at 3 million calls with 3-4 busies, which is beyond system requirements. Currently, there is no limit to the system.

13. Roundtable

- Mr. Akbari introduced Deepak Kumar as the new primary for Caltrans and Mr. Akbari will go back as alternate representative. Additionally, Caltrans will be introducing an interactive map of radio system coverage for the state highway system.
- Mr. Rea announced his retirement and will be his last board meeting.

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

**Next Board of Directors Meeting is on Wednesday, July 9, 2024 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

FEBRUARY 2025 - APRIL 2025

	Invoice	Revenue Received	Receivables	
			Balance	%
February	514,535	509,676	4,858	0.94%
March	517,608	463,507	54,101	10.45%
April	521,736	20,518	501,218	96.07%
TOTAL	\$ 1,553,878	\$ 993,700	\$ 560,177	36.1%

RCS TRUST FUND BALANCE

BEGINNING BALANCE	9,574,016
LESS:	
OBLIGATED EXPENDITURES:	
Prior Years' Replacement Infrastructure/Improvement Projects	820,000
FY 24/25 Replacement Infrastructure/Improvement Projects	277,209
RCS BOD Minimum Reserve	<u>3,000,000</u>
	<u>4,097,209</u>
PROJECTED AVAILABLE BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2025	5,476,807

RCS Network Operations Update

May 14th 2025



Cuyamaca Microwave Dish & Waveguide Damage

On March 13, 2025, the Cuyamaca radio site sustained ice damage to the Monument–Cuyamaca microwave path. Falling ice bypassed the existing ice protection and damaged both the microwave dish and its waveguide. As a result, the path became highly unstable during wet and windy conditions.

RCS Technicians documented the damage and issued a task order for Aztec to replace both components. Due to the lead time required to procure a new dish, the path was not fully restored until April 22. Despite the delay, there were no significant issues affecting the reliability of the path during the interim period.

Remote Site UPS Replacement (4 Sites)

The RCS is currently in the first phase of replacing all aging EATON 9170 UPS systems at its remote radio sites. Over the past few months, we have replaced the four most problematic systems: Red Mountain, Los Pinos, Point Loma, and UCSD.

This system refresh is necessary due to the EATON 9170 reaching end-of-life status, limited parts availability, and an increasing failure rate. Following a competitive bidding process, the RCS selected the Xtreme Power Conversion XPC M90S as the replacement model. This new system meets or exceeds all of our operational requirements and provides a modern, reliable battery backup solution.

We anticipate replacing an additional 12 units in the upcoming fiscal year.



Monthly Statistics

February 2025

Total Call Count: **3,407,154**
Avg. FDMA Calls: **80.63%**
Avg. TDMA Calls: **19.37%**
Total Buses: **4**
Busy Detail: **(2) Black Mt Imp ASR**
(2) Calexico ASR

March 2025

Total Call Count: **3,595,399**
Avg. FDMA Calls: **82.66%**
Avg. TDMA Calls: **17.34%**
Total Buses: **3**
Busy Detail: **(3) Calexico ASR**

April 2025

Total Call Count: **3,678,289**
Avg. FDMA Calls: **84.74%**
Avg. TDMA Calls: **15.26%**
Total Buses: **7**
Busy Detail: **(3) Calexico ASR**
(1) Salton City ASR
(2) Sidewinder ASR
(1) South Simulcast

Busies Percentages

Feb 25: **0.000213%**
Mar 25: **0.000133%**
Apr 25: **0.000090%**

**** Busies are within system tolerances and the system is operating as designed.**



**NEXTGEN REGIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
(NEXTGEN RCS)**

RCS BOD MEETING MAY 14, 2025



NEXTGEN REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM



NEXTGEN RCS AGENDA

AGENDA

- History of RCS
- History of NextGen RCS
- What is RCS
- What is the Future
- Summary



HISTORY OF THE RCS

HOW RCS BEGAN:

- 1989 County Board of Supervisors (BOS) directed Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to study public safety communications requirements for the County
- 1991 User Group Formed to study requirements of the region
- 1992 BOS directed CAO to begin planning, design, and funding for a new regional public safety radio communications system

ADVANTAGES OF REGIONAL SYSTEM:

- Increased resources: Radio frequencies could be shared
- Shared Infrastructure and Shared Costs
- Improved Interagency Communications (Interoperability)



HISTORY OF THE RCS

MARCH 1995 “PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT” IS SIGNED BY THE COUNTY AND PARTNERING CITIES AND AGENCIES

- Partnering agencies became “RCS Members” and shared in infrastructure costs
- Established “fair share” buy in costs
- Established ongoing operations and maintenance fees
- Each Participating Agency has a seat on the “Member Board” which met annually and approves budget
- The RCS began operations in 1998 with approximately 2800 public safety users
- The RCS Trust Fund was established in 2001

1995 AGREEMENT ESTABLISHED THE RCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) TO ADMINISTER THE RCS IN COOPERATION WITH AND APPROVAL FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



HISTORY OF THE RCS

The RCS BOD

Consists of nine members:

- County of San Diego(1)
- City Manager (1)
- San Diego County Sheriff's Office (1)
- San Diego County Municipal Police Dept (1)
- San Diego County Fire Agencies (2)
- Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority (IVECA) (2)
- State of CA Dept of Transportation (CALTRANS) (1)

A quorum exists with 6 members present and 3 of the 6 are other than IVECA or Caltrans.



HISTORY OF THE NEXTGEN RCS

SEPTEMBER 2009 START PROCESS OF REPLACEMENT

- System Baseline Report 2010
- User Needs Assessment 2011
- Design Alternatives Report 2011
- 2016 Parties and New Partner Agencies Sign NextGen RCS Agreement
- Released Request for Proposal (RFP) 2014
- NextGen Contract Awarded 2015
- Begin Construction 2016
- Complete Phase I 2020

2016 AGREEMENT ESTABLISHED THE NEXTGEN RCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) TO ADMINISTER THE NEXTGEN RCS IN COOPERATION WITH AND APPROVAL FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



WHAT IS NEXTGEN RCS

What is NextGen RCS:

Public Safety Communications System Supporting San Diego County and Imperial County public safety and public service organizations

- Motorola Astro P25 Phase I & II, 800 MHz Trunked Voice Radio System
- Microwave Radio Network - backbone/transport system
- Conventional Voice Radio System

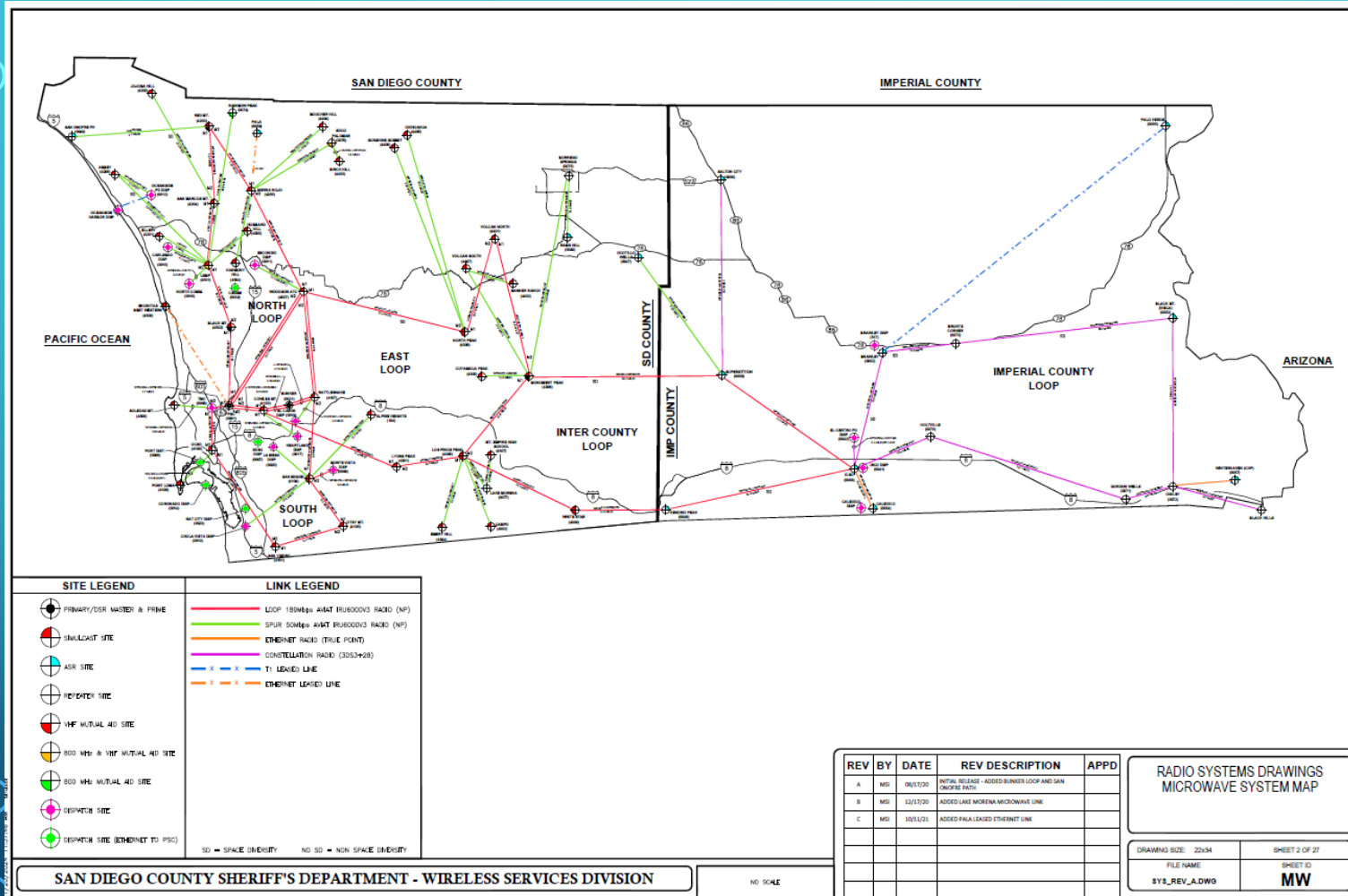
RCS serves more than 200 agencies and departments including 18 dispatch centers and supports more than 23,000 subscriber radios on the system



WHAT IS NEXTGEN RCS

WHAT IS NEXTGEN RCS

- 800 MHz Trunked Voice Radio System
- Covers San Diego County
- Covers Imperial County
- Over 9,000 Miles²
- Serving a population of 3.5M
- 54 Communications Facilities
- 120 microwave links
- Over 200 agencies Local, State, Federal
- 18 Public Safety Answering Points
- Over 20,000 primary system users
- Over 3,000 mutual aid users





WHAT IS NEXTGEN RCS



SYSTEM STAGING
MOTOROLA
SCHAUMBURG ILLINOIS



750+ Channel P25, 5 Cell
Simulcast System



WHAT IS NEXTGEN RCS



BLACK MOUNTAIN COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY



Communications tower supporting multiple agencies including City of San Diego, County, RCS, State and Federal agencies



WHAT IS NEXTGEN RCS



POWER BACKUP

All critical sites have backup generator power with a minimum of seven days of fuel at full load



WHAT'S NEXT

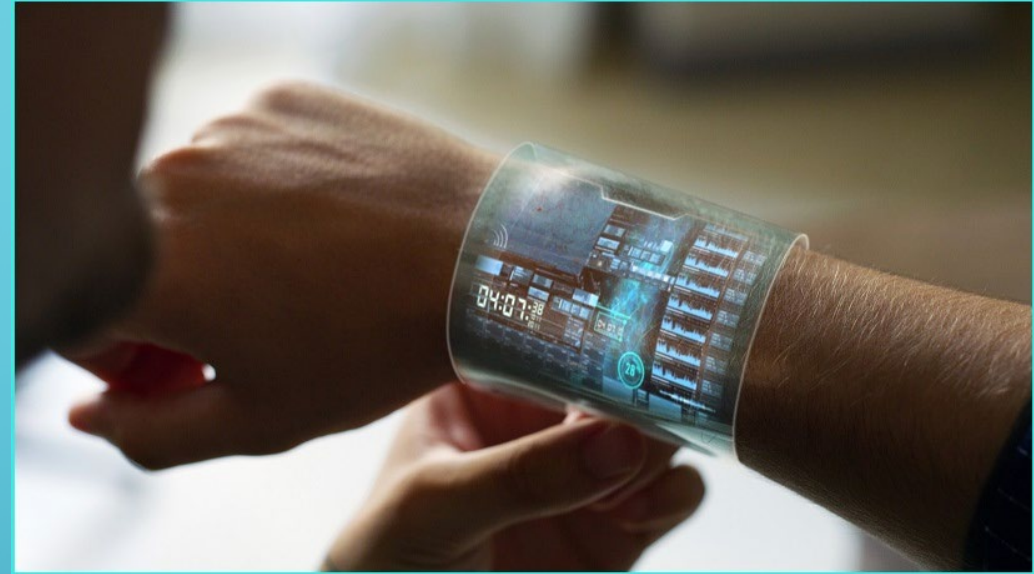


WHAT'S COMING
NEXT?

Continued regional or larger
collaborations?



WHAT'S NEXT



Where are we going?

WHERE WE CAME
FROM!



SUMMARY

Regional Communications System:

- 1992 BOS directed CAO begin planning, design, and funding for a new regional public safety radio communications system
- 1995 RCS Agreement signed by the County and partnering cities and agencies
- 1998 The RCS began operations with approximately 2800 public safety users
- 2009 Start replacement process
- 2016 Agreement established the Nextgen RCS Board
- 2016 Parties and New Partner Agencies Sign NextGen RCS Agreement
- 2020 Completed replacement process
- 2025 NextGen RCS serves more than 200 agencies and departments including 18 dispatch centers and supports more than 23,000 subscriber radios on the system



QUESTIONS

Technology Services Wireless Services Division Regional Communications System

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