



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

5595 Overland Avenue, Suite 101, MS-O56, San Diego, California 92123
Phone (858) 694-3663 Fax (858) 694-3433
<http://www.rcs800mhz.org>

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

SAN DIEGO COUNTY – IMPERIAL COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, October 10, 1:00 p.m.

COUNTY OPERATIONS CENTER
5500 OVERLAND AVENUE, ROOM 120
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123

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

PRESENT: Directors Bill Paskle, Chair; Tony Ray; Henry Tsui; Blair King, Manuel Rodriguez;
Alex Silva; Chuck Peraza; Mike Calderwood.

AGENDA ITEMS

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

Mr. Henry Tsui, Caltrans

Chief Manuel Rodriguez, San Diego County Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association

Commander Tony Ray, San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Chief Bill Paskle, San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association

Chief Alex Silva, IVECA

Chief Chuck Peraza, IVECA

Chief Mike Calderwood, San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association

Mr. Blair King, San Diego City/ County Managers Association

2. Welcome and Introduction - Chief Paskle 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 July 11, 2018.

NextGen RCS Board of Directors

SAN DIEGO COUNTY - IMPERIAL COUNTY

*Chief Bill Paskle, Alpine Fire Protection District (Chair) - Holly Crawford, OES, County of San Diego (Vice Chair)
Commander Tony Ray, San Diego County Sheriff's Department - Chief Manuel Rodriguez, National City Police Department -
Blair King, City of Coronado - Chief Brett VanWey, San Marcos Fire Department
Henry Tsui, Caltrans – Mr. Tony Rouhotas, IVECA - Chief Chuck Peraza, IVECA*

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Commander Ray, seconded by Chief Rodriguez, the Board of Directors approved the Minutes for the Meeting of July 11, 2018.

AYES: Directors Bill Paskle, Chair; Tony Ray; Henry Tsui; Manual Rodriguez; Alex Silva; Chuck Peraza; Mike Calderwood.

5. Public Comments - There were no public comments.

6. Revenue/ Billing Update (July-September 2018)

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 Reports (July- September 2018) – Mr. Root reported:

July 2018: 3.6 million conversations with 174 busies. There were two incidents of note.

On July 6, 2018, the first major wildfire of the season started in Alpine, which is served by both the South and East simulcast cells. The system had 115,000 call setups, with a total of 100 busies; 12 of which were in the South Cell, and 12 of which were in the East Cell. The remaining 76 were in the North Cell. From a traffic overloading standpoint, the system performed within acceptable norms.

On July 24th the Brawley site experienced intermittent connectivity to the network. The problem was resolved July 30th.

August 2018: 3.6 million conversations with 3,822 busies. There were no incidents to report.

Of the 3,822 busies, 3,809 occurred in the North Simulcast. The North Simulcast was rebanded on August 15th and August 16th. During this work, the RCS had to reduce the number of available channels in half. To assist in managing the lack of resources, the assistance of the fire agencies was needed to move them to VHF for their operations that week.

September 2018: 3.3 million conversations with 84 busies. There were two incidents of note.

The RCS has been working with Motorola to determine the cause and resolution for the new MCC7500 dispatch consoles displaying failure alerts related to the conventional resources attached to the network.

On the evening of September 30, the Calexico Site lost power when the transfer switch failed.

Discussion: Chief Paskle inquired if the issues on the new Motorola dispatch consoles will result in any down time on the dispatch centers. Mr. Root replied that it would not have any impact. Mr. Brooks added it is high priority to have this issue resolved. Mr. Brooks thanked the agencies in the North Simulcast retune and for reducing their use in the area. Chief Paskle expressed the importance of the VHF backbone for the fire departments as a back-up system.

8. Administrative Update

8.1 Grants Update – Mr. Brooks reported 9 of the 11 dispatch centers have updated to the new consoles. The 2015 UASI Grant funded the RCS console upgrade project for all 11 dispatch centers in the region. Carlsbad and Escondido are on schedule for completion this year. Escondido's equipment shipped this week. All dispatch agencies have been informed that the old consoles will no longer work on the new system at the beginning of the year 2019. The 2017 UASI Grant funded microwave connections in La Mesa and Coronado; these dispatch centers currently do not connect to the system via microwave. With the 2017 UASI Grant all dispatch centers will be connected to RCS via microwave with the exception of National City that still relies on commercial carriers to connect into RCS. The RCS currently has funds from the 2017 UASI grant to fund the staff augmentation until December 2019 for a Senior Engineer position to provide engineering support for site acquisition and site development for the NextGen project ending 2020. The 2019 UASI grant funding will extend the staff augmentation through June of 2020. There are no additional requests for the 2019 grant funds.

8.2 Training Update – Mr. Root reported that 12 classes have been completed and 183 people trained to date. Eight classes are currently scheduled and two tentatively scheduled through December. Between rebanding and the transition to the NextGen platform, there are significant changes to the network and radio programming that users will need to be aware of. The Training staff has been developing updated user curriculum, and will start presenting the revised formats in December. The training staff encourages all current agencies/ users to schedule to attend a refresher course. Ms. Dorame will be the point of contact for information and scheduling.

Discussion: Chief Paskle inquired how long does a refresher course take. Mr. Root replied it would take approximately 4 hours; however shorter timeframes for training are being developed as well as training videos.

9. Major Projects Update

9.1 RCS Site Projects Status - Mr. Brooks reported there are six (6) generator replacements to be completed this year (two (2) carried over from last year, and four (4) requested this fiscal year). County DGS cannot maintain the generators on their current 20 year replacement schedule due to environmental requirements and parts availability, so the replacement cycle has been decreased to 15 year. A dedicated Project Manager is overseeing the generator replacements for the six (6) sites. The RCS cache radios will be replaced for a cost of \$1.2

million, broken down to three (3) years for \$400,000 each year. These radios will be P25 Phase II capable and replacement will start at the end of the month. A Request for Bid (RFB) is in progress for battery system replacements due to failure of 48 volt DC power plants at various RCS sites. The Encina site relocation project is underway. Due to the overlap with NextGen, there will be a six (6) month gap without service. The RCS is looking into trying to accelerate the NextGen and is working to get users in North County on the new system by October 2019. Another option is moving the Encina Power Plant to a temporary location at the Ellery site in Carlsbad. There will be areas along the coast (roughly 10%) that cannot be reached. A coverage map is being developed and a Motorola is in the process of putting together the cost of relocating the site. A request was submitted to NRG for a postponement of the plant demolition until the six (6) month gap in coverage closes. However, it is unlikely the postponement will be approved as plans have completed for plant demolition and any delay will incur an added cost. The Otay Mountain site is currently in the works and under negotiation to be on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. In San Ysidro, work is in progress to build a site on the land owned by the County. The goal is for RCS to build sites instead of leasing in order to decrease the cost and to have more control on the sites/towers. .

9.2 NextGen RCS Project Status – Mr. Hazlett reported Phase 2 existing site installation is 92% completed. Installation is moving forward at all the problematic leased sites. The effort to optimize equipment has started and is projected to be complete by February 2019 and coverage testing is scheduled to begin in March. San Onofre Peak equipment shelter has been ordered and will be delivered by this year and construction will begin by January. Efforts to search for a site in Encinitas is still ongoing and is currently working with a private entity to place a communication site in Encinitas which will allow having a higher view of the site, thereby improving the coverage on the coastline. This process will take a few years to complete and a meeting is set to finalize the contract. In addition, a site at Solana Beach is still actively being pursued which will also take a few years to complete. The County purchased a site in Pala and construction design is underway. Project scope, schedule and budget are all on track.

Discussion: Chief Paskle inquired if the coverage will increase with both Ellery and San Onofre sites up and running; Mr. Hazlett replied it will overall with some problem areas along the coast due to the loss of Encina.

9.3 800 MHz Rebanding – Mr. Root reported the infrastructure retuning is complete. The RCS is 87% complete on the overall project. The second touch of the subscriber fleets will be scheduled in with the NextGen programming for later this year and into next year.

Discussion: Chief Paskle inquired if there was schedule set on the second touch of rebanding. Mr. Root replied the schedule is not yet available and it will be coordinated with Motorola's programming team.

9.4 First Net- Mr. Brooks reported First Net is moving forward with coverage improvements with 50 new sites added. First Net added channel 14 which is 20 Mhz of public safety 700 band designed for public safety agencies. AT&T is starting to deploy data units on the local network at Escondido Fire and PD, Carlsbad PD, and Oceanside PD. AT&T is working to finalize the voice side to the process and running a voice test in Sacramento to determine how it will interface on their communications system. The RCS has reached out to AT&T and Motorola to set up a demo to determine how this will impact the RCS. This will be on system to system configuration to assess the risks. The pilot will start by end of October.

10. Consent Agenda

10.1 Request the RCS Board approve new RCS Customer Agreements for the following new ambulance agencies at the prevailing RCS customer rate: San Diego Ambulance LLC, Lifewest Inc., Access Ambulance Services, and TLC Medical Transport.

10.2 Request the RCS Board approve Barona Fire Department to increase their radio limit from 35 to 50 radios.

10.3 Request the RCS Board approve Jamul Dulzura Unified School District to increase their radio limit from 17 to 25 radios.

10.4 Request the RCS Board approve Rincon Luiseno Band of Indians Reservation Fire Department to increase their radio limit from 25 to 60 radios.

10.5 Request the RCS Board approve University of San Diego to increase their radio limit from 42 to 60 radios.

ON MOTION of Chief Rodriguez, seconded by Chief Peraza, the Board of Directors approved the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Directors Bill Paskle, Chair; Tony Ray; Henry Tsui; Manual Rodriguez; Alex Silva; Chuck Peraza; Mike Calderwood; Blair King.

11. Main Agenda

11.1 Mr. Brooks reported the Budget Committee Members will meet with staff in December and January to discuss FY 19-20 Budget and finalize budget recommendation for RCS BOD February 2019 meeting. Continuing Budget Committee Members are: Chief Bill Paskle, Chief Brett VanWey, and Commander Tony Ray.

11.2 Request the RCS BOD approve the 2019 Meeting dates:

- 1st Quarter – Wednesday, February 6; 1:00 p.m.; 5500 Overland Ave. Rm. 120
- 2nd Quarter – Wednesday, April 10; 1:00 p.m.; 5500 Overland Ave. Rm. 120
- 3rd Quarter – Wednesday, July 10; 1:00 p.m.; 5500 Overland Ave. Rm. 120

- 4th Quarter – Wednesday, October 9; 1:00 p.m.; 5500 Overland Ave. Rm. 120

Schedule approved by the Board of Directors.

11.3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chief Rodriguez nominated Chief Paskle for Chairperson and the Board of Directors unanimously voted for Chief Paskle to serve as Chair.

Commander Ray nominated Ms. Crawford for Vice Chairperson and the Board of Directors unanimously voted for Ms. Crawford to serve as Vice Chair.

12. Roundtable

Commander Ray expressed his concern regarding the six (6) month gap with Encinitas coverage as there's a 5-10% chance of an emergency call coming through on some areas that are not covered. Mr. Brooks informed the group that the public will be made aware if there are areas that are not covered so there are no surprises before the cut over to the NextGen system. Bi-Directional Amplifier System (BDAs) can also be deployed to help with the coverage issues.

Mr.King stated Marlene Best would serve as his alternate on the Board.

13. End of Meeting - The meeting ended at 1:43 p.m.

Next Board of Directors Meeting is on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

County Operations Center
5500 Overland Avenue, Room 120, San Diego, CA 92123