



**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, November 13, 1:30 p.m.

COUNTY OPERATIONS CENTER
5560 OVERLAND AVENUE, ROOM 172
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Directors Bill Paskle, Chair; Holly Porter, Vice Chair; Mike Calderwood; Blair King; Peter Callewaert; Ernesto Fermin; Jose Tellez

AGENDA ITEMS

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

Chief Mike Calderwood, San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association
Ms. Holly Porter, County of San Diego
Commander Peter Callewaert, San Diego County Sheriff's Department
Mr. Blair King, San Diego City/ County Managers Association
Mr. Ernesto Fermin, Caltrans
Chief Bill Paskle, San Diego County Fire Chiefs' 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. Reschedule of meeting that was previously scheduled on October 9, 2019.
4. Approval of the NextGen RCS Board of Directors' Minutes for the Meeting of July 10, 2019.

NextGen RCS Board of Directors

SAN DIEGO COUNTY - IMPERIAL COUNTY

*Chief Bill Paskle, Alpine Fire Protection District (Chair) - Holly Porter, OES, County of San Diego (Vice Chair)
Commander Peter Callewaert, San Diego County Sheriff's Department - Chief Jose Tellez, National City Police Department -
Blair King, City of Coronado - Chief Michael Calderwood, Carlsbad Fire Department
Ernesto Fermin, Caltrans*

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Mr. Blair King, seconded by Chief Calderwood, the Board of Directors approved the Minutes for the Meeting of July 10, 2019.

AYES: Directors Bill Paskle, Chair; Mike Calderwood; Holly Porter; Blair King; Peter Callewaert; Ernesto Fermin

5. Public Comments - There were no public comments.

6. Revenue/ Billing Update (July- October 2019)

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 - October 2019) –Mr. Root reported the following updates:

July 2019: 5.3 million conversations with 81 busies. No unscheduled incidents for July.

August 2019: 3.5 million conversations with 227 busies. Started increasing busies as channels were taken away for the production system to bring NextGen online. No unscheduled incidents for August.

September 2019: 3.475 million conversations with 2700 busies. During the latter part of September, heavy migration started to NextGen and adjusting channel capacities between old and new systems after each phase of moving users. No unscheduled incidents for September.

While 2,700 busies might seem excessive, it is .16% of the traffic on one NextGen simulcast cell. Majority of the busies were in one NextGen simulcast cell. Additional channels were added to that cell in an effort to reduce overall percentage busies.

October 2019: 4.41 million conversations with 9,091 busies. This includes counting all traffic on both sides separately. As more users on NextGen side losing channel capacity with old system, numbers are now dropping. No incidents to report.

From an operations standpoint, only subscriber issued equipment has been evaluated in the system and approved for operation by the Board. These will currently be Motorola and EF Johnson/Kenwood subscribers have tested and met performance standards. With new system coming online the opportunity for other vendors to provide equipment arises. At the request of an IVECA agency, they are now in the process of evaluating for acceptance on a third manufacturer and this is an ongoing process. Results will be available in the near future and will be presented to the Board for approval.

8. Administrative Update

8.1 Grants Update – Mr. Brooks reported the following updates:

2017 UASI Grant: Grant funding was used to provide microwave connectivity to the RCS for the Coronado dispatch center. This link has been completed with the assistance of Wireless Services Division (WSD). The Coronado MW equipment has been installed and tested. WSD/RCS team is now working with the NextGen vendor to complete network configuration and connect the dispatch center over the new microwave.

2018 UASI Grant: Wireless Services Division received \$365,000 of grant funding to work with regional fire agencies to interface four VHF fire zones systems into the RCS dispatch centers. Wireless Services staff is working with Fire Comms group and the selected vendors to develop cost analysis and technical specifications to integrate into the RCS network.

2019 UASI Grant: Grant funding to cover staff augmentation for NextGen engineering and planning for the period of January – June 2020 has been approved.

Note: Director Chief Jose Tellez, San Diego County Police Chief's and Sheriff's Association, joined meeting at 1:40 p.m.

8.2 Training Update –Ms. Dorame reported the following training updates:

FY19/20 started off strong with 467 trained through October, which is just under 50% of the 939 annual goal. 17 Field and six (6) Console classes were completed. There are seven (7) confirmed classes scheduled in November and four (4) for December. The NextGen migration schedule has encouraged interest will likely continue into the early Spring classes.

Field Radio Operating Guide (FROG) updates are progressing and all mutual aid and redundant operating documents (outside of Fire) class materials have been completed.

9. Major Projects Update

9.1 RCS Site Projects Status - Mr. Brooks reported the following updates for the 2019/2020 projects:

New Sites/ Relocations updates:

Red Mountain Microwave Relocation: The legacy RCS system is in a leased facility and the new NextGen system is in the CalFire facility. The RCS microwave network connection was moved from the leased facility into CalFire facility to incorporate the NextGen system into the loop protected RCS microwave. The legacy RCS system is connected into the RCS microwave network on a temporary spur microwave connection. Relocation funds were used for the microwave move and installation of the temporary spur.

Encina Power Plant Microwave reconfiguration: Due to the Encina Power Plants scheduled demolition starting April 2020, the RCS microwave loop that passes through the site must be reconfigured. The microwave loop going through the Encina Power Plant is a critical section of the north microwave loop and the redesigned microwave will close the loop once the power plant is removed. Currently, the reconfiguration is in the design phase, but the schedule is to have the reconfiguration of the microwave loop in place prior to the power plant facility being taken offline.

48 Volt Battery Replacement: The batteries are utilized as the site power backup for the microwave network connecting the RCS sites. Each site has a battery backup system providing up to 8 hours of run time in the event that the site loses utility power and the on-site backup generator fails. The selected vendor is now in the process of replacing the aged 48V battery systems at 18 RCS sites. These new 48V battery strings have a 10-year life expectancy.

Generator Replacement: San Diego County Department of General Services (DGS), who maintains and manages the replacement of RCS generators is currently installing generators funded with FY 2018-2019 RCS trust funds. Generator replacements have been completed at Rattlesnake, San Miguel and Superstition. DGS is working on replacements of generators at White Star and Alpine.

Encina Power Plant Equipment Move: RCS funded a line item in the 2019-2020 budget for \$500,000 as a contingency for a potential relocation of the legacy RCS equipment from the Encina power plant to the new RCS Ellery radio facility. San Diego County was issued a lease termination notification for the Encina facility with an October 1, 2019 facility vacate. This date was in conflict with the NextGen schedule that required the RCS legacy system at the facility to continue operating through April 1, 2020. The County worked with NRG (owner of the Encina Power Plant) to get an extension of the lease, but also developed a contingency plan to include the move of equipment from the Encina Plant to the new NextGen Ellery site if the lease could not be extended.

At the November 12th Carlsbad City Council Meeting, the council unanimously voted to adopt a City of Carlsbad Resolution authorizing a nine-month extension to NRG on demolition of the Encina Power Plant. Once NRG had authorization from the City of Carlsbad to delay the demolition, they issued a lease extension through April 1, 2020. This extension allows the budgeted \$500K for the move to be placed back into the RCS trust fund. The line item in the budget will be removed.

RCS cache radios: RCS maintains 270 portable radios for emergency deployment. The Board of Directors approved a 3-year cycle to replace the old radios with new P25 phase II capable radios. The replacement is budgeted as an annual \$400,000 line item. In 2018, 117 radios were replaced and in 2019, 104 have been replaced. The remaining 49 radios will be replaced in 2020 with the remainder of the 400,000 budgeted going back to the RCS trust fund.

Informational update regarding weed abatement: Weed abatement has been completed at all the sites managed by the RCS going into fire season. As of the 1st of November, all the weed abatement has been completed, providing a defensible protection space around the sites.

9.2 NextGen RCS Project Status – Mr. Hazlett reported the following updates:

Field functional tests have been completed followed by the completion of Coverage Acceptance testing. The 30-day operation test has been completed. Functionality testing of the backup control equipment at the Bunker location was also successful.

The subscriber transition began in September with a total to date of 176 agencies and 15,000 subscribers having been transitioned. Completion of most San Diego County subscribers is expected by the end of November. Emergency Medical and Imperial County subscribers are scheduled to start transitioning in December with completion by January.

Phase 3 construction continues. The tower, shelter, generator and radio equipment has been installed at San Onofre Peak. Work continues in order to complete the electrical distribution system with a temporary generator available as needed on site. Pala site construction is scheduled to begin in January.

9.3 IVECA Projects- Mr. Schmidt reported the infrastructure for the microwave link between Ogilvy and CHP Winterhaven Sidewinder has now been installed and aligned. All infrastructure has been installed. Anticipate eliminating T1 as NextGen progresses. Numerous generator issues have occurred one being at Imperial County Sheriff's office, the others are at the Ogilvy and Calexico communications sites. Ogilvy and Calexico sites have been rectified and both are operating at normal operating mode. Imperial County Sheriff's office generator requires some parts that are on an expedited basis. Mr. Schmidt was informed by technician prior to start of meeting that parts are expected within a day or two. No danger that the generator will not start in the event of a commercial power failure. There is an electrical issue interfacing with the automatic transfer switch but optimistic that a transfer will occur.

9.4 800 MHz Rebanding – Mr. Root reported the County, its vendors and Sprint are all in agreement on the request to close out the contract for rebanding. The Amendment to the contract has been approved by the County and is working through the Sprint and Regulatory approval process. With this Amendment, the Second Touch work will be performed as a component of the NextGen 'last touch' work to be completed next year.

9.5 First Net- Mr. Brooks reported the Sheriff's Data Services is doing a preliminary assessment of the FirstNet devices for data delivery. Currently there is no testing of Mission Critical Voice. FirstNet is in the process of developing mission critical voice requirements.

10. Consent Agenda

10.1 Request the RCS Board approve new RCS Customer Agreement for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Police for up to 60 radios.

10.2 Request the RCS Board approve new RCS Customer Agreements for JVG Ambulance and Atlas Medical Transportation, Inc.

10.3 Request the RCS Board approve the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to increase their radio limit from 125 radios to 175 radios for mutual aid use.

10.4 Request the RCS Board approve a new RCS Mutual Aid Agreement with Amtrak Railroad Police Department for up to 10 radios.

ON MOTION of Commander Callewaert and seconded by Chief Tellez, the Board of Directors approved the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Directors Bill Paskle, Chair; Mike Calderwood; Holly Porter; Blair King; Peter Callewaert; Ernesto Fermin; Jose Tellez

11. Main Agenda

11.1 Request the RCS Board to appoint three board members to serve on the RCS Budget Committee.

Chief Jim Lydon (by way of nomination by Mr. King), Chief Jose Tellez and Mr. Ernesto Fermin consented to serve on the RCS Budget Committee.

11.2 Request the RCS BOD approve the proposed 2020 Meeting Schedule:

- 1st Quarter -Wednesday, February 5; 1:00 p.m.; 5500 Overland Ave. Rm. 120
- 2nd Quarter – Wednesday, April 8; 1:00 p.m.; 5500 Overland Ave. Rm. 120
- 3rd Quarter – Wednesday, July 8; 1:00 p.m.; 5500 Overland Ave. Rm. 120
- 4th Quarter – Wednesday, October 14; 1:00 p.m.; 5500 Overland Ave. Rm. 120

Schedule approved by the Board of Directors.

Chief Paskle presented a plaque of appreciation to Ms. Holly Porter for serving on the RCS Board for the past 7 years.

11.3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair nomination: Chief Jim Lydon

ON MOTION of Chief Calderwood and seconded by Mr. King, the Board of Directors approved nominations for election of Chair.

AYES: Directors Bill Paskle, Chair; Mike Calderwood; Holly Porter; Blair King; Peter Callewaert; Ernesto Fermin; Jose Tellez

Vice Chair nomination: Graham Mitchell

ON MOTION of Mr. King and seconded by Commander Callewaert, the Board of Directors approved the nomination for election of Vice Chair.

AYES: Directors Bill Paskle, Chair; Mike Calderwood; Holly Porter; Blair King; Peter Callewaert; Ernesto Fermin; Jose Tellez

12. Roundtable

Chief Paskle mentioned that this will be his last meeting as he will be retiring at the end of the year. He extended his appreciation to the RCS staff for their invaluable support while serving on the board.

Mr. Brooks also gave his appreciation to the board for their participation, commitment and support to the RCS.

13. End of Meeting - The meeting ended at 2:02 p.m.

Next Board of Directors Meeting is on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

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