



**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, February 5, 2020 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 Jim Lydon, Chair; Jeff Toney; Theresa Adams-Hydar; Jose Tellez; Ernie Fermin; Alfredo Estrada Jr.; Brian Johnson

AGENDA ITEMS

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

Chief Jim Lydon, San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association

Mr. Jeff Toney, County of San Diego

Commander Theresa Adams-Hydar, San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Chief Jose Tellez, San Diego Police Chiefs' Association

Mr. Ernesto Fermin, Caltrans

Chief Alfredo Estrada Jr., Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority (IVECA)

Chief Brian Johnson, Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority (IVECA)

2. Welcome and Introduction - Chief Lydon 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 November 13, 2019.

NextGen RCS Board of Directors

SAN DIEGO COUNTY - IMPERIAL COUNTY

*Chief Jim Lydon, Coronado Fire Department (Chair) – Graham Mitchell, City Manager, City of El Cajon (Vice Chair)
Commander Theresa Adams-Hydar, San Diego County Sheriff's Department – Jeff Toney, OES, County of San Diego
Chief Jose Tellez, National City Police Department - Chief Michael Calderwood, Carlsbad Fire Department
Ernesto Fermin, Caltrans – Chief Alfredo Estrada Jr., IVECA – Chief Brian Johnson, IVECA*

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Chief Tellez, seconded by Chief Estrada Jr., the Board of Directors approved the Minutes for the Meeting of November 13, 2019.

AYES: Directors Jim Lydon, Chair; Jeff Toney; Theresa Adams-Hydar; Jose Tellez; Ernesto Fermin; Alfredo Estrada Jr., Brian Johnson

5. Public Comments - There were no public comments.

6. Revenue/ Billing Update (November 2019- January 2020)

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 (November 2019 – January 2020) –Mr. Root reported the following updates:

It has been reported historically to the RCS Board the number of radio calls set up on the network, known as conversations and the number of blocked channel assignments, known as system busy. The transitioning of nearly 20,000 network users between the Legacy network and the new NextGen network has been ongoing within the last 5 months. Both networks operated live with the conversations and busies having been artificially high and do not reflect the actual operating performance of the network. During this transition process there were no unplanned outages of either network.

Historically only subscriber equipment that is fully compatible with the Network equipment has been allowed on the RCS network. With the open standard NextGen network starting operations, the issue of evaluating and recommending for Board approval other manufacturers of P25 subscriber equipment becomes pertinent. At the request of an IVECA agency, a third manufacturer has been evaluated and one critical parameter was found to be non-compatible. Once the manufacturer returns and proves full compatibility a recommendation for Board approval will be presented.

8. Administrative Update

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

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

Non-RCS but impacting RCS: 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.

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

There has been a consistent stream of classes over the last few months with a completion total of 46 classes with 794 people trained. The annual goal of 939 people trained is close to being met. There are five classes tentatively scheduled over the next couple of months.

9. Major Projects Update

9.1 RCS Site Projects Status - Mr. Brooks reported the following updates for the 2020/2021 projects:

New Sites/ Relocations updates:

Encina Power Plant Project:

San Diego County/RCS has a radio communication facility inside the Stack at the Encina Power Plant. This is a legacy system site that is being decommissioned as part of the next Gen Project. The County/ RCS received a lease termination notification for the Encina facility which will be demolished in 2020 with an effective date of April 1st of this year. With the shutdown of the legacy RCS system this month, currently on schedule to complete decommissioning of the radio site and remove all equipment prior to the April 1st lease termination date.

RCS had funded a line item in the 2018 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 if the County/RCS was unable to complete the transition to the NextGen system prior to the lease termination. Now that the Encina legacy radio site has been shut down and currently on schedule for removal of the equipment, the \$500,000 budgeted line item from the 2018 budget will be removed and the funds will remain in the RCS trust fund.

As Part of the Encina decommissioning the County/ RCS will have to reconfigure the microwave links going through this site. The microwave loop going through the Encina Power Plant is a critical section of the RCS north microwave loop and has been redesigned to remove the Encina Power Plant from the loop. WSD staff is working with selected vendor on scheduling the reconfiguration of the microwave loop and is on schedule to be completed prior to the April 1 Power Plant lease termination date.

48 Volt Battery Replacement Project:

The RCS maintains 48V DC battery strings that maintain the power for the RCS microwave equipment at each of the 50 radio communications facilities. In the event of a power failure these batteries provide up to 8 hours of run time, in case the site loses utility power and the on-site backup generator fails. The selected vendor is working with the County/ WSD on replacing the aged 48V battery systems at 18 RCS sites this year. Battery life is 10 years.

Generator Replacement Project:

San Diego County Department of General Services (DGS), maintains 33 RCS generators at communications facilities throughout the county. RCS has moved to a 15-year replacement cycle on these generators. As ongoing maintenance/ replacement each year, 3 or 4 of the older generators are being replaced. This year, DGS has replaced 6 generators, four from previous years and two for this year.

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

The subscriber transition has been successfully completed. Just under 20,000 mobile and portable radios are now operating on the NextGen RCS system.

The final stages of bringing all NextGen channel counts to full capacity has begun this week in Imperial County. This will provide relief from site busies during major incidents. RCS legacy equipment removal will begin in March.

Phase 3 construction continues. Site construction at the Pala location is estimated to be completed in December 2020. The San Onofre electrical distribution system continues with completion by July 2020. A new site east of Ramona is being explored for added coverage in that area.

9.3 IVECA Projects- Mr. Schmidt reported the Cahuilla project has been shelved by the U.S. Navy due to funding. It is uncertain regarding future viability. BLM has placed infrastructure on the site. Awaiting on additional information for a resolution. Ready to begin with establishment of commercial power. BLM will be building a new ranger station. Mr. Schmidt's design is being reviewed with the engineering and project manager at local power company to ensure all is in order to move forward in an efficient manner.

9.4 800 MHz Rebanding – Mr. Root reported that under the FCC's orders, Sprint has been responsible for funding the reconfiguration of the 800 MHz band. The County entered into contract with Sprint in 2014 and the reconfiguration process was completed in 2019. The County, its vendors and Sprint are all in agreement on the request to closeout the contract for rebanding. At this point the contract is in the closeout process and should be complete in 60-90 days. All loan equipment has been returned to Sprint.

9.5 FirstNet – 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. Meeting is scheduled later this February with AT&T/FirstNet representative.

Discussion: Chief Johnson raised concerns on how this will impact Imperial Valley since there are coverage issues with AT&T such as dead spots in many areas. Mr. Brooks acknowledged AT&T is aware of this issue and AT&T will be providing data to show coverage areas to address concerns.

10. Consent Agenda

No items.

11. Main Agenda

11.1 2020-2021 Proposed Budget Presentation (see attached) was presented by Ms. Pia.

11.2 Request the RCS Board approve the FY2020-2021 RCS Budget.

ON MOTION of Chief Johnson, seconded by Commander Adams-Hydar, the Board of Directors approved the FY2020-2021 RCS Budget and *the NOC will remain at \$28.50 per radio per month.*

AYES: Directors Jim Lydon, Chair; Jeff Toney; Jose Tellez; Ernesto Fermin; Alfredo Estrada Jr.; Brian Johnson; Teresa Adams-Hydar

12. Roundtable

No roundtable discussion.

13. End of Meeting - The meeting ended at 1:34 p.m.

Next Board of Directors Meeting is on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

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