



**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, October 14, 2020 1:00 p.m.**

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

Virtual teleconference held via Microsoft Teams due to COVID-19 public health emergency restrictions.

Meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

PRESENT: Directors Jim Lydon, Chair; Stephen Rea; Theresa Adams-Hydar; Jose Tellez; Ernie Fermin; Graham Mitchell; Mike Calderwood; 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. Stephen Rea, 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

Mr. Graham Mitchell, City of El Cajon/County Manager's Association

Chief Mike Calderwood, San Diego County Fire Chief's Association

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.

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*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*

4. Approval of the NextGen RCS Board of Directors' Minutes for the Meeting of July 8, 2020.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Chief Johnson, seconded by Commander Adams-Hydar, the Board of Directors approved the Minutes for the Meeting of July 8, 2020.

AYES: Directors Jim Lydon, Chair; Stephen Rea; Theresa Adams-Hydar; Jose Tellez; Ernie Fermin; Graham Mitchell; Mike Calderwood; Brian Johnson

5. Public Comments - There were no public comments.

6. Revenue/ Billing Update (July- September 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 (July – September 2020) –Mr. Brooks reported the following updates:

July 2020: 3.5 million call setups with 27 busies. No incidents to report. Busies occurred as 1 busy in the West Simulcast, 10 busies at Hendrix ASR serving Imperial County and 16 busies at the Calexico ASR also serving Imperial County.

August 2020: 3.7 million call setups with 4 busies. No incidents to report. Busies included two at Hendrix and two at Calexico.

September 2020: 3.7 million call setups with 10 busies. No incidents to report. The 10 busies included one busy in the South Simulcast, 5 busies at Hendrix ASR and 4 busies at Calexico ASR.

During the Valley Fire in the Japatul Valley fire, seven sites ran on generators for multiple days with no impact on radio communications.

8. Administrative Update

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

Currently RCS has no grant funding requested or active grants being received. Wireless Services Division staff are currently working on 2021-2022 UASI grant funding to implement GPS location integration into the NextGen system. The radios are capable of providing GPS location but currently there is no interface equipment for agencies to connect for display. The implementation of GPS functionality on the NextGen core will allow agencies to purchase interface equipment and displace programs to utilize the information giving real time

situational awareness regarding radio locations. Currently working with vendor to provide estimated cost for implementation.

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

The pilot for the webinar has been completed. Two webinars for training were successfully conducted. Five classes have been completed, and due to COVID protocols and cancellations, the program has been cut back. The current plan is to coordinate and schedule at least one in person class (following strict guidelines), and one webinar. Classes have been limited to 15 participants, and academies are still being held per agency request.

## 9. Major Projects Update

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

Generator Replacement Project:

This is the ongoing replacement of generators over 15 years old. There are currently three on order to be delivered in early December this year. Generators will be installed at the Emory, Volcan North and Lyons communications facilities. These generators are budgeted under FY 2019-2020 funds, however, there was a delay in the contracting of the installation vendor and additional delay caused by reduced staffing levels at the manufacturer's factory. Generators for this FY 2020-2021 are awaiting on the spend plans from Department of General Services (DGS).

In parallel with the ongoing generator replacement, HVAC units are being replaced systematically. For this fiscal year, Palomar and Sierra Rojo RCS sites will have replacement units installed before the end of the calendar year.

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. The third and last round of 48V DC replacement will start next week and be completed by the end of the calendar year. This will complete the updated 48V DC battery update at all sites except the majority of Imperial County and dispatch sites.

#### MPLS Optimization:

The MPLS network backhaul system optimization was completed in September. This optimization of the MPLS system allows dispatch agencies to be able to expand resources on the consoles due to the expanded bandwidth available for the NextGen system.

#### RCS Cache Radios:

During the protest, RCS cache radios were utilized to provide additional communications resources for law enforcement. Over 150 radios were programmed and deployed to provide critical communications to various agencies. The RCS maintains 270 cache radios that are available during emergency situations.

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

Phase 2 of NextGen RCS Project has been completed. Milestone 4 which was the final acceptance test was signed off for final acceptance of existing RCS sites. The system upgrade to 2019.2 was completed. This entailed software updates for Dispatch Operations and NICE logging.

Currently in process, the Subscriber retuning which is removing the legacy SmartZone talk groups and retuning radios.

Few items in the work include Lake Morena microwave link to Mountain Empire Radio Site, and a notice to proceed for San Onofre interim power. Construction permit has been received for the Pala radio site and construction schedule is pending. Moving forward, the Black Mountain radio site improvement to add a tower will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors in November for approval.

9.3 IVECA Projects- Mr. Schmidt reported that IVECA experienced generator issues, however, all necessary repairs were performed, communications were not compromised and all restored to normal operating procedures with Imperial County Sheriff's.

Exploring possibility of radio system replacements in Imperial County. Mr. Schmidt is also coordinating with Ms. Dorame on radio training classes for some agencies in Imperial County that have expressed interest.

9.4 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 September with AT&T/FirstNet representative.

*Discussion: Commander Adams-Hydar has inquired on the benefits of interfacing FirstNet with RCS. Mr. Brooks explained that FirstNet gives bridging capability between RCS radios and LTE for other agencies in the region. The interface will allow LTE users outside the region to access RCS through the AT&T network.*

## 10. Consent Agenda

10.1 Request the RCS Board approve a new RCS Media Customer Agreement for Station Venture Operations – KNSD-TV.

10.2 Request the RCS Board approve a new RCS Customer Agreement for Viewpoint Ambulance.

10.3 Request the RCS Board approve San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) to increase their radio limit from 400 radios to 1,000 radios.

10.4 Request the RCS Board approve U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to increase their radio limit from 50 radios to 90 radios.

10.5 Request the RCS Board approve a Delinquent Account Payment Plan Agreement with Coast Medical Transport.

10.6 Request the RCS Board approve a five-year extension to RCS Customer Service Agreement per list attached. (Attachment A).

*Discussion: Chief Lydon inquired if there will be any issues in adding over 650 radios in the system. Mr. Brooks confirmed that the system will be able to handle the capacity of additional radios.*

ON MOTION of Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Chief Calderwood, the Board of Directors approved the Consent Agenda items.

AYES: Directors Jim Lydon, Chair; Stephen Rea; Theresa Adams-Hydar; Jose Tellez; Ernie Fermin; Graham Mitchell; Mike Calderwood; Brian Johnson

## 11. Main Agenda

### 11.1 Preliminary FY 2021-2022 Budget Discussion

ON MOTION of Commander Adams-Hydar, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board of Directors approved to continue with the current Budget Committee Members: Chief Lydon, Chief Tellez and Mr. Fermin.

AYES: Directors Jim Lydon, Chair; Stephen Rea; Theresa Adams-Hydar; Jose Tellez; Ernie Fermin; Graham Mitchell; Mike Calderwood; Brian Johnson

11.2 Request the RCS Board approve the proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule.

- 1st Quarter – Wednesday, February 10; 1:00 p.m.
- 2nd Quarter – Wednesday, May 12; 1:00 p.m.
- 3rd Quarter – Wednesday, July 14; 1:00 p.m.
- 4th Quarter – Wednesday, October 13; 1:00 p.m.

ON MOTION of Chief Tellez, seconded by Chief Calderwood, the Board of Directors approved the 2021 Meeting Schedule dates.

AYES: Directors Jim Lydon, Chair; Stephen Rea; Theresa Adams-Hydar; Jose Tellez; Ernie Fermin; Graham Mitchell; Mike Calderwood; Brian Johnson

12. Roundtable

Commander Adams-Hydar and Mr. Brooks discussed the availability of extra radios in the RCS radio cache.

Chief Calderwood has requested for RCS staff to provide information and an in-depth report regarding the formal or informal agreement with RCS regarding VHF radios. Chief Lydon has requested RCS staff to include this item in the board agenda for the February meeting.

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

**Next Board of Directors Meeting is on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**

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