



DATE: June 23, 2015

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Police

TITLE: **Silicon Valley Regional
Interoperability Authority
Memorandum of Understanding**

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and execute related documents between the City of Mountain View and the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority relating to the building, financing, and maintenance of the new Silicon Valley Regional Communications System.

BACKGROUND

In 2001, the 15 municipalities in Santa Clara County, along with the South Santa Clara County Fire District, the County of Santa Clara, San Jose State University, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District executed a Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) to jointly hire consultants to achieve the following:

- Complete a conceptual design and implementation strategy for a regional interoperable communications network.
- Jointly purchase a radio and data communications system.
- Integrate the system or network with other nearby regional public safety communications systems.
- Participate in regional interoperability systems.
- Jointly fund activities and systems related to interoperability.
- Apply for grants and funding to facilitate accomplishing the above tasks.

In 2010, all the cities other than Los Altos Hills joined the County of Santa Clara and entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to form the Silicon Valley Regional

Interoperability Authority (SVRIA). The goals and purpose of the SVRIA JPA are similar to those under the original JFA. Councilmember Clark is on the JPA Board and City Manager Rich is on the working group.

The SVRIA is now seeking to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each of the members to fund the construction, operation, and maintenance of an interoperable radio communications network known as Silicon Valley Regional Communications System (SVRCS). The cities of Campbell, Gilroy, Los Altos, and Morgan Hill, as well as Foothill/DeAnza Community Colleges and the Valley Transportation Authority, have already adopted the MOU. The deadline for adoption of the MOU is June 30, 2015.

ANALYSIS

SVRCS is a single digital 700 MHz radio system designed for use by all public service agencies in Santa Clara County. Members of the SVRIA have disparate radio systems which currently operate on different frequencies. A Countywide radio system would allow the members of the JPA to communicate more effectively and realize operational efficiencies in both day-to-day operations, significant or catastrophic events, and in officer safety by having a radio system where public safety and disaster workers can communicate more consistently across jurisdictional boundaries.

It is anticipated that SVRCS will be operational Countywide in the next three years. The cities of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale are both fully operational on the system today and report the system is working as anticipated.

SVRCS is divided into three cells—West, Central, and South—utilizing approximately 30 sites to connect all public safety agencies and municipalities in Santa Clara County. Mountain View and its regional partners are in the West Cell. SVRCS initial deployment has been focused on the West Cell due to the Cities of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale needing immediate radio system replacement because of an aging infrastructure.

This MOU is intended to establish a means of requiring SVRIA members and participants to commit to the payments necessary to ensure financing of the system. SVRIA members and participants will pay a portion of the system based on the number of radios committed for use on the system in addition to the cost of annual operation of the system.

The SVRIA Board has approved the MOU in consultation with the SVRIA legal counsel and each participant's legal counsel. The working group and the Countywide association of city managers have also been involved in the development of the MOU.

Projected costs for construction, implementation payments, operations, and maintenance are specified in Exhibits A and B of the MOU. To the extent possible, grant funds have been used to support the costs of this project to date, but are insufficient for a Countywide build-out.

The total cost to complete the SVRCS infrastructure in its entirety is estimated at \$28,868,460. The funding formula identified in the MOU for the infrastructure build-out beginning in Fiscal Year 2015-16 is based on the total number of subscriber units per agency. Subscriber units are the portable (handheld) and mobile (vehicle) radio units that are used by the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. Mountain View's user count is based on 310 subscriber units or 2.98 percent of the total subscriber units for all participants.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City of Mountain View's share of the system is \$2.38 million. This includes construction and implementation payments as well as equipment and radio replacement costs. The total funding of the \$2.38 million is in the five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2015-16 (Project 16-34 Regional Public Safety Communication System—Infrastructure Replacement), including money from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015-16, the City of Mountain View's portion of the infrastructure build-out costs will be approximately \$286,972 per year for three years for a total of \$860,916.

Member agencies are required to fund the replacement of their subscriber units and dispatch consoles. Included are the 310 subscriber units for the City. It is estimated the total cost for replacement of the subscriber units will be approximately \$855,500.

Additionally, the five existing radio consoles in our Communications Center will need to be replaced with consoles that are compatible with the new digital, trunked radio system. The cost to replace the five existing radio console plus a "consolette" at the Municipal Operations Center (MOC) is estimated to cost \$513,000.

The project total for replacement of dispatch consoles and subscriber units totals \$1,368,500. It should be noted this is still an estimate based on the most advantageous discounted incentive pricing by Motorola.

Ongoing Operations and Maintenance

Operations and maintenance costs of our current system is \$199,356 annually.

The RCS ongoing operations and maintenance is shared across the member agencies and is needed for updating network hardware, software, and radio infrastructure, as well as administrative costs. Costs are estimated at \$112,911 in both Fiscal Year 2018-19 and Fiscal Year 2019-20. The cost will decrease slightly in Fiscal Year 2020-21 and then will increase each consecutive year after that based on the Consumer Price Index.

As the City migrates to the new RCS system, the City will reduce contributions to the Equipment Replacement Fund reserves for replacing existing public safety radio infrastructure. In addition, the existing service contract will gradually reduce to operate and maintain only ancillary but essential non-RCS mutual-aid radio base stations, MOC radio channels, and Fire station alerting. The operations and maintenance costs to maintain ancillary, non-RCS systems and the new RCS will be approximately \$169,419 annually resulting in an estimated savings of \$30,000 in the first year. Operations and maintenance costs will be funded from the General Operating Fund.

CONCLUSION

The new generation radio communication system allows City staff to communicate with neighboring and regional agencies. The replacement will provide the City with a state-of-the-art public safety communications system and bring the City into full compliance with FCC regulations. This will improve first-responder safety, interoperability with other agencies, and position Mountain View to be ready to utilize this infrastructure as part of the new Countywide radio system envisioned by the member agencies of the SVRIA.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not authorize the City Manager to sign the MOU.
2. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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Approved by:

Max Bosel
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Daniel H. Rich
City Manager

JC/7/CAM
304-06-23-15CR-E

- Attachment: 1. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority and the City of Mountain View, Including Exhibit A and Exhibit B