

Project Funding Statement- County of Marin
Region 6 700-MHz Licensing Application

The estimated total system cost is approximately \$65 million. The cost to complete the system is \$25 million.

Background

In 1997 the Marin County Board of Supervisors authorized and applied to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for frequencies to build a state-of-the-art emergency communications system. In 1998 the FCC approved the frequency for 18 channels. That same year the County, Cities and several Special Districts in Marin formed a Joint Powers Authority called the Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA) to “plan, finance, implement, manage, own and operate a multi-jurisdictional countywide public safety, public service, and emergency radio system. In 1999 the MERA Board authorized the sale of bonds in the amount of \$26,940,000 to finance the project. Since the sale of the bonds MERA has constructed seventeen radio and microwave sites in Marin. Their 25 member agencies contribute a pro-rata share of their annual operating budget of approximately \$1.6 million.

By contract, technical oversight and maintenance of the countywide communication system is administered by the Marin County Department of Public Works Communications Division. The County of Marin has over the last few years accepted or has pending several interoperability grants:

2008 IECGP - \$130,000

2008 UASI – \$362,250

2009 UASI - \$650,000 pending

2010 UASI -\$1,238,402 pending

UASA Bay Loop - \$946,551

2009 CALEMA - \$101,813

2009 IECGP - \$275,000

Current Status and Future Funding

The County of Marin issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in July 2010 for a County-wide 700 MHz network. It has received two proposals which are currently being considered. The proposed cost is approximately \$25 million to finalize a system design and implement the P25 network.

Based on the vendor responses to this RFP, the County of Marin will evaluate and determine the preferred method for funding the remaining phases of the project. It is anticipated that future funding options may include, but not limited to, bonds, equipment lease, local agency appropriation and additional federal grants.