



# **FINANCE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**LOS ANGELES REGIONAL  
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY**

Thursday, May 20, 2021 • 1:30 p.m.  
**Teams Teleconference Regular Meeting**

<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
<b>John Geiger</b> , County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office
<b>Maria Morales</b> , County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
<b>David Povero</b> , City of Covina Police Department
<b>Marie DiBernardo</b> , City of Inglewood Police Department

<b>ALTERNATES FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
<b>Helen Jo</b> , County of Los Angeles Fire Department
<b>Sven Crongeyer</b> , County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

<b>OFFICERS PRESENT:</b>
<b>Scott Edson</b> , Executive Director
<b>Susy Orellana-Curtiss</b> , LA-RICS Administrative Deputy
<b>Beatriz Cojulun</b> , Committee Secretary

<b>ABSENT MEMBERS:</b>
<b>Mark Alexander (interim)</b> , California Contract Cities Association
<b>Leticia Rivera</b> , County of Los Angeles Fire Department
<b>Judy Anderson</b> , County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department



**NOTE: ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM IDENTIFIED ON THE AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair John Geiger called the Regular Meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 1:30 p.m.

**II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – Roll Call**

Committee Secretary, Beatriz Cojulun performed a roll call and acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)**

**A. August 20, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

Chair Geiger read in the minutes for August 20, 2020. With the absence of any objections, Chair Geiger called for a motion to approve.

Committee Member Chief David Povero motioned first, seconded by Committee Member Captain Marie DiBernardo

Ayes 6: Geiger, Crongeyer, Morales, DiBernardo, Jo, and Povero.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (None)**

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR – (None)**

**VI. REPORTS – (None)**

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS – (B – D)**

**B. UPDATE ON APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE ASSET TRANSFER AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK ROUND 2 SITES**

Administrative Deputy Susy Orellana-Curtiss provided the Finance Committee (Committee) with some background regarding the Asset Transfer Agreement for the Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN/LTE) Round 2 Program.



Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated the Authority was a recipient of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Grant, which was augmented to fund PSBN Round 1 and PSBN Round 2.

- The Authority successfully transferred the assets that were completed under PSBN Round 1 (under the original Asset Transfer Agreement with AT&T Corp. [AT&T]), with Federal Government approval.
- July 2020, the PSBN Round 2 work was completed. The Authority submitted the final grant claim to the BTOP Grantor, which was approved and paid on September 17, 2020.
  - Upon the final submission of grant claim and payment by the Federal Grantor, the Authority formerly requested permission to transfer the Authority's interests in those PSBN Round 2 assets to AT&T for their incorporation into the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). The formal request was submitted in October 2020, immediately following the Grant closeout BTOP Program.
  - On March 17, 2021, the Authority received Federal Grantor approval. This allowed for the transfer of the PSBN Round 2 sites to AT&T for incorporation into NPSBN.
  - Upon receipt of that approval, the Authority has been working closely with AT&T and its consultants to perform field investigations at those Round 2 sites perform inventory of all assets and final checklist for site acceptance in order to transfer those sites to AT&T.
  - At the last Board of Directors (Board) meeting on May 6, 2021, the Board was presented with an amendment to the AT&T Business Agreement due to the time requirement for AT&T's site review completion. The Business Agreement amendment allowed for the remaining payment balance be split into two (2) payments. Therefore, the \$6 million dollar payment the Authority was supposed to receive at the successful transfer of the PSBN Round 2 assets was split into two (2) \$3 million dollar payments, which would allow for the LA-RICS operating budget to receive revenue and time for AT&T to complete its site acceptance process. The Board approved the splitting of the \$6 million dollar payment to be received in two (2) \$3 million dollar payments, one which was received immediately following the Board's approval on May 6, 2021, and the second payment due to be received upon the acceptance of the remainder of the sites projected for the end of May 31, 2021.



In closing, Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss was happy to share the news that in September 2020 the team successfully closed out the BTOP Grant with all claims 100% funded, as well as the subsequent approval of the transfer of those assets to be incorporated into the national system, augmenting the NPSBN with public safety grade sites in the region. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss opened the floor for discussion or questions regarding the transfer of assets. With the absence of comments or questions, Chair Geiger moved on to the next Discussion Item.

### **C. FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE UPDATE**

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss presented the Frequency Interference Update. She mentioned that over a series of Board meetings, both Technical and Operations Leads have been presenting to the Board some previously encountered issues dating as far back as 2017, which have had some unanticipated/unexpected interference with the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) TV Broadcast (T-Band). The interference impacts relevant to this Committee, as raised at the last Board meeting, was whether there were any fiscal impacts tied to some of the unanticipated frequency issues. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated the Authority had previously shared certain amendments and spending plans that were approved by the Federal Grantor, which included allocation into the Authority's spending plan that also formed part of the Authority's formal agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI) to explore and mitigate some of the frequency issues that we have been experiencing to-date.

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss introduced Technical Lead Engineer Ted Pao to provide technical briefing on the interference issues.

Technical Lead Ted Pao reiterated what Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss shared in regards to the inference issue with the spectrum that the Authority is planning to build on. He provided background and stated the Authority intended to build the UHF digital-trunk system on TV Channel 15 spectrum that was allocated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to this region for a regional interoperability system. The Authority was not aware the FCC International Bureau had agreed to allow Mexico to operate TV Channel 15 out of Tijuana. Technical Lead Ted Pao said that with the close proximity of Tijuana TV Station that really impacted some of the Authority's radio sites, mainly Catalina and to some of the Authority's coastal sites in the Santa Monica Mountain and the western side of the County of Los Angeles (County).

Technical Lead Pao expressed that an amendment would have to be executed in order to do a frequency change to utilize some of the existing TV Channel 16 frequency for which the County also has licensed spectrum. This spectrum is operating County of Los Angeles Fire Department (LACOFD) and the County of Los



Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) systems. Technical Lead Ted Pao went on to say the Authority worked out a transition plan with the stakeholder agencies and proceeded with the amendment to mitigate the Channel 15 interference issue. As a result of the amendment execution, The Authority received additional reports, spectrum fingerprinting, and noise floor monitoring reports from MSI. The reports indicated that some sites are suffering from external interference have affected the Authority's inbound coverage on UHF, DTVRS, and AVCRS (Authority's analog layer). Technical Lead Ted Pao stated the intent of this report was to measure the Radio Frequency (RF) noise floor and to determine if there was any offending signal level at the site. The report was not intended to find the source of the interference. The County has been looking into this matter since it is the license holder for the affected spectrum. Therefore, the Authority has been actively working with the County and MSI to validate the report findings. If there has been confirmed interference, the Authority would be work closely with County to mitigate it. Technical Lead Ted Pao said that it seems too early to tell if there would be cost implications with issues. Technical Lead Pao stated that if it does, he would report a cost implication to the Committee at the next meeting. This concluded the Frequency Interference portion of the report.

Technical Lead Pao went on to reported to the Committee regarding FCC Licensing. The FCC has provided the Authority's licensing for all, except the UFH T-Band license. Technical Lead Ted Pao stated that some of the Committee Members may be recall, there was a potential for the FCC auctioning off the T-Band since 2012. In December 2020, Congress changed the law, which now does not require T-Band be taken back.

Technical Lead Pao concluded his report by informing the Committee that as December 2020, The Authority has submitted a T-Band application to the FCC for licensing. Two (2) weeks ago, the Authority received a response with additional questions, in which the Authority must address some deficiencies issues on the applications. In regards to the T-Band licensing application, the Authority was in process, working closely with MSI and the County to mitigate the deficiencies in the applications, within a 30-day deadline.

#### **D. LMR UPDATES**

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss presented an overview of the impacts experienced since the last meeting relating to issues such as COVID-19 pandemic. Its impacts not only affected supplying resources for the system, but also services such as public counter services heavily affected during this time. The Authority also experienced one of our worst fire seasons and compounded by a very difficult winter. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated there have been some significant impacts to the LMR System Deployment that were further complicated by issues with



MSI and their ability to continue with uninterrupted work and adherence to schedule, as well as to contractual requirements. As a result, over this past year the Authority has had extreme and very frequent communications with the Federal Grantor. The Federal Grantor have a very strong pulse on the status of the program, holding meetings with them multiple times a month to provide them with updates, as well as to discuss some of the remedies the Authority has incorporated in order to pull in time and to potentially mitigate certain unanticipated costs.

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss concluded by saying that some accomplishments have been made on the LMR System Deployment, as well as some issues the Authority is still working through. The Project Team continues with a vision towards completing the program for its intended purpose and use, as well as staying within the performance period deadlines of the Federal grants, which are funding the programs' deployment.

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss introduced Program Director Chris Odenthal to present LMR Updates.

Program Director Chris Odenthal greeted the committee and provided an overview of the construction status of LMR System Sites over the last year, as shown on the County map that he provided on screen.

Program Director Odenthal stated he previously spoke with LACOFD Chief Steve Cabrera and LASD Lieutenant Sven Crongeyer explained to them how it all goes together. Program Director said it was more than just a construction site, since it already contained equipment, connectivity, and power.

Program Director Odenthal went on to explain:

- Forty-one (41) sites (on the map as yellow), from a construction and equipment placement perspective have been completed. Thirty-five (35) of the forty-one (41) sites were powered up. The Authority received clearance to delivery power at three (3) more sites. Those sites can be turned-on and optimized, meaning:
  - All the connections have been checked
  - All of the antennas work properly
  - Coverage footprint has been analyzed for each of these sites
  - Each of the subsystems remain present just to ensure they all function correctly

Program Director Odenthal stated that it does not mean that all of the sites go on air, function and taking traffic, although nine (9) of the thirty-five (35) are





outside of the early deployment system. Program Director Odenthal went on to say the intent was to make sure that as sites came up, they were all tuned and set-up, ready for the final sites that would come out of the simulcast cell which they would be participating in.

- There are only two (2) outstanding sites, Frost Peak (FRP) and Burnt Peak (BUR).
- Ten (10) sites (on the map as red) remained under construction with the expectation of a quick completion.
  - Magic Mountain Link (MML) and Mount Disappointment (MDI) are both done; with the exception of permanent utility power.
  - Pine Mountain (PMT) turned out to be a solar solution requiring additional solar equipment, therefore, construction has taken a bit longer to.
  - Castro Peak (CPK) and Green Mountain (GRM) are both nearing completion.
- Seven (7) sites (on the map as blue) were ready for build.
  - San Pedro Hill (SPH), East Sunset Ridge (ESR), Los Angeles County Fire Station 072 (LACF072), and Saddle Peak (SPN).
  - The three (3) sites on Catalina Island (Black Jack Mountain [BJM], Dakin Peak [DPK], and Tower Peak [TWR]) were pending construction until July 1, 2021, due to the restrictions of the Catalina Fox pupping season. Coordination with Catalina Island has been completed, as well as securing all-coastal development permits.

Lastly, Program Director Odenthal pointed out there were more construction completed sites than what remains as pending construction. Program Director Odenthal went on to say that, map markings also demonstrate the interdependencies of all of these sites through the backhaul network.

Chair Geiger asked if numbers were changed since the last count, which previously indicated there were twenty-five (25) completed sites, eighteen (18) under construction, and fifteen (15) pending.

Program Director Odenthal concluded his report by informing the Committee there were forty-one (41) completed sites, ten (10) sites under construction, and seven (7) sites ready for build.

There were no further questions asked at the conclusion of the report.



## VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – (E-F)

### E. REVIEW AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT PROPOSED FISCAL-YEAR 2021-22 OPERATING BUDGET

The staff was seeking Committee's recommended approval to the Authority's Board of Directors of the draft Proposed Operating Budget that would allow for payment of expenditures incurred effective July 1, 2021, as well as the continuation with the Authority's operations. The draft budget was in accordance with the cost factors identified in the Adopted Funding Plan.

Administrative Deputy Susy Orellana-Curtiss provided the Committee with an overview of the budget, referring Committee Members to the budget summary table included in Agenda Item E and highlighted one noticeable difference under the Grant Funded Expenditures, the BTOP fund now zero (0). The Authority successfully closed out the BTOP Grant Program, thus the Authority's proposed budget no longer reflects those grant dollars.

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss noted that grant fund activities were captured in the attached summary table, reflective of the remaining open grant. The table also reflected the final closeout portion of UASI 18' Grant, as well as remaining open and awarded for the buildout of the Authority's infrastructure, UASI 19' Grant. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said the grant funded activities were captured on the table and align with the MSI scheduled expected to occur within this FY2021-22.

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss went on to say the Authority's Member funded operations now fully funded through the AT&T Business Agreement funds, which were successfully negotiated through PSBN Round 1 and now PSBN Round 2 transfer of Assets. These Member funded line items were in accordance with the limits that are set forth in the LA-RICS Adopted Funding Plan. Those limits were reflected as Member Funded JPA Operations, LMR Administrative Cost and LTE Administrative Costs. In addition, as part of the AT&T Business Agreement, the Authority negotiated Business Agreement Services funds to pay for the swap of certain PSBN Routers that were going to be compatible on the A&TT network. Therefore, AT&T provided the Authority with funds for the replacement services, as well as the routers that will be replaced in user vehicles. The funds captured in this budget reflected swap services activities that have been scheduled to be completed FY2021-22. LASD and LACOFD have made progress on this router swap work. The \$500,000 work included here are reflective of the work of at the final vehicles that require swap and replacement of that equipment.





Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated the recommended budget was very similar to that which has been recommended by committee and adopted by the Board in the past and opened the floor for discussion or questions.

With the absence of any objections, Chair Geiger called for a motion to approve.

Committee Member Maria Morales motioned first, seconded by Committee Member DiBernardo.

Ayes 6: Geiger, Crongeyer, Morales, DiBernardo, Jo, and Povero.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

#### **F. 2021 SCHEDULE FOR LA-RICS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

It was recommended the Committee approve the following dates for the calendar year 2021 Finance Committee Regular Meeting Schedule:

- June 24
- July 15
- August 19
- September 16
- October 15
- November 18
- December 16

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss recommended adoption of the Committee schedule in order to formalize the meetings and will calendar them as the same.

Chair Geiger asked Committee Members if Committee Members and Alternates if anyone had any conflicts with the scheduled dates presented.

With the absence of any objections, Chair Geiger called for a motion to approve.

Committee Member DiBernardo motioned first, seconded by Committee Member Morales.

Ayes 6: Geiger, Crongeyer, Morales, DiBernardo, Jo, and Povero.

**MOTION APPROVED.**



**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS – (None)**

**IX. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – (None)**

The Committee did not enter into Closed Session.

**X. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT and NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., via Teleconference Meeting.

With the absence of any objections, Chair Geiger moved for a motion to adjourn.

Committee Member DiBernardo motioned first, seconded by Committee Member Morales.

Ayes 6: Geiger, Crongeyer, Morales, DiBernardo, Jo, and Povero.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

APPROVED