



# FINANCE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL  
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Thursday, January 20, 2022 • 1:30 p.m.  
Teams Teleconference Regular Meeting

<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
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John Geiger, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office
Maria Morales, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Mark Alexander (Interim), California Contract Cities Association
Marie DiBernardo, City of Inglewood Police Department

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

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

<b>ABSENT MEMBERS:</b>
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Vacant Seat #5, LA Area Fire Chiefs Association
Vacant Seat #6, LA County Police Chiefs Association
Vacant Seat #10, At-Large Seat #10



**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. September 16, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

Chair Geiger read in the minutes for September 16, 2021. With the absence of any objections, Chair Geiger called for a motion to approve.

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

Ayes 7: Geiger, Jo, Crongeyer, Morales, Alexander, Walczak, and DiBernardo.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE**

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE**

**VI. REPORTS (B – E)**

**B. LMR UPDATE – Justin Delfino**

Program Manager Justin Delfino provided the Committee with the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Update. Program Manager Delfino explained that the Authority started the year off on a positive note having a successful Rose Parade event. The County of Los Angeles (County) Sheriff's Department (LASD) primarily benefited from the use of the system, which LASD reported that it worked perfectly, specifically commenting on the sound quality clarity and ease of use.



Program Manager Delfino stated that currently there is an extreme effort focused on completing work at the three (3) Catalina Island sites, which are Black Jack Peak (BJM), Dakin Peak (DPK) and Tower Peak (TWR). The contractor, Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI), has indicated that they plan to complete construction on January 31, 2022. Program Manager Delfino went on to say that even if MSI meets its January 31, 2022 goal, it will have to make a return trip to the island in February 2022, due to back ordered fence materials that were reported to have been delayed as a result of global supply chain issues.

Program Manager Delfino stated that Phase 2 work is also being done at San Pedro Hill (SPH) and County Fire Station 072 (LACF072), which are both expected to be completed with Phase 2 work by March 2022. Program Manager Delfino shared that LACF072 is a site situated at a Fire Station in the Malibu/Santa Monica Mountains area and will provide much needed coverage in that geographic area. MSI has made drastic progress in the month of December 2021 having installed the monopole and communications shelter. Program Manager Delfino stated that along with the many performance issues by MSI, he believes that COVID-19 pandemic has also negatively affected the Program and the Authority recently received a letter from MSI indicating COVID impacts. Specifically, the letter indicated that some of MSI's internal staff, including its Technical Lead, as well of some of its subcontractors have recently been infected by the COVID-19 virus and resulted in some decrease in productivity. Program Manager Delfino said the Authority has agreed to stay in close correspondence with MSI on the topic of COVID-19 to prevent the spread of the virus amongst the project teams. Program Manager Delfino stated that MSI will furnish an updated Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) with the data date version of January 31, 2022, and will provide it on February 1, 2022. The new IMS is planned to incorporate the MCI site and the reduction of work at Topanga Peak (TOP-RELAY) and Saddle Peak (SPN). Program Manager Delfino asked the Committee to recall from the last report that while the microwave components will remain at TOP, all of the sites Radio Frequency (RF) equipment would be co-located at MCI with the SPN equipment. Program Manager Delfino went on to explain the benefits of consolidating the equipment at MCI, noting that it will save time and cost on the program. Program Manager Delfino reported that there have been some complications at two (2) specific sites, Burnt Peak 1 (BUR1) due to a fire at the end of 2020, as well as Green Mountain (GRM), where the electrical utility has simply not been connected yet. Program Manager Delfino reported that the problem with power at each site will be remedied with the use of roll-up diesel generators with accessory fuel tanks at BUR1 and GRM.

Program Manager Delfino stated the Authority has requested an extension for the close of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) 19' Grant on behalf of MSI.



Program Manager Delfino reported that the Authority will meet with the Granting Authority to further discuss the request.

Program Manager Delfino concluded his report by letting the Committee know there are fifteen (15) cells currently on the air and twenty-six (26) sites currently on the air, and that LMR System Acceptance is currently planned for mid-October 2023, per the IMS.

Program Manager Delfino reported that the Narrowband Mobile Data Network (NMDN1) is expected to be the first subsystem accepted for use on August 4, 2022, as long as there are no unexpected delays with frequencies and cutover.

With the absence of comments or questions, Chair Geiger moved on to the next Discussion Item.

### **C. GRANT STATUS REPORT**

Administrative Deputy Susy Orellana-Curtiss greeted the Committee and expressed the last few months have been rough as far as grant funding and grant application efforts are concerned and mentioned Committee Members have been briefed by each of their respective representative Board Directors. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said the Authority had hoped to provide the Committee with a more solid update by this date, but went ahead and provided the Committee with the significant progress that has been made relating to the grant. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss summarized Program Manager Delfino who provided the Committee with significant updates that have been made since the last Finance meeting, Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss highlighted a portion of Project Manager Delfino's report of forty-five (45) sites that have construction complete, and projecting through the performance period of the UASI 19' the Authority will likely complete fifty-seven (57) of the fifty-eight (58) sites. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss went on to say the fifty-seven (57) sites will make up the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System, which is a huge accomplishment given the many hurdles that have been encountered in the past couple of years, including the California weather, including the worse rainstorms, followed by snowstorms, mudslides, as well as the preceding fires in the region that were experienced impacting some of the most complex sites. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss expressed that nonetheless progress has been made on construction at the sites, equipment for all sites has been procured, and as Program Manager Delfino reported a conclusion in construction is expected this summer.



Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said there is one (1) remaining site, MCI, which the Authority will be building separately from its contractor MSI, through an independent bid contract and contemplate construction completion this year as well.

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss went on to say that with the delays the Authority has encountered, and as the Committee has been aware, the Authority has been in constant communication with the Grantor at the City of Los Angeles (City), state and federal grantor, they have kept a strong pulse on the LA-RICS program, the project and its progress from the time the region voted to build the system of systems model, and allocate \$105 million dollars to the LA-RICS for its completion. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated that since that time, in 2016, the Authority has experienced delays and hurdles, resulting in an increase in cost, as well as the duration of time for the completion of the program.

Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss asked the Committee to recall the allocation that was committed by the UASI region back in 2016, which contemplated completion of the system in its entirety in 2020 and now the IMS will reflect a completion in October of 2023. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said the extension in time compounded with the unexpected change orders, which have resulted due to either Acts of God, or field encountered change orders, as well as other contractual delays resulted in need of additional funding. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated that was communicated formally to the Authority's Grantor back in 2019, which they understood the Authority was working closely with MSI to finalize the IMS and incorporate certain efficiencies where possible to pull-in dates. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss went on to say the Authority at the time was instructed to consider any potential reduction in scope and perhaps equipment could be consolidated or a site could be dropped. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss informed the Committee that an assessment was completed confirming the sites and equipment contemplated was necessary in order to provide the regional users with the system they require. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss expressed the Grantor understood this and allowed the Authority to continue with uninterrupted work under an existing and awarded grant, understanding the region would consider an allocation of funding to complete the program at a later date. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated the one missing piece the Authority did not have in front of it was what the IMS completion date would be. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss shared that once the Authority received the IMS that was mutually agreed to and accepted by the LA-RICS Authority, immediately the Authority presented the Funding Gap to the Grantor at the City, State, and Federal level and proceeded with corresponding grant applications.



Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss provided the Committee with a summary of the activities that have occurred since then, there were a series of meetings that occurred last year in the fall of 2021, with the UASI Approval Authority receiving the program updates and information, extensive question and answer document was submitted by the Approval Authority and answered by LA-RICS, Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss went on to say the Authority held various presentations and meetings where the Approval Authority's questions were addressed, summarizing the funding gap to complete the system totals \$40 million dollars over three (3) grant cycles. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said the Approval Authority met a few times initially awarding LA-RICS \$10 million dollars out of the \$40 million dollar request, over the course of two (2) grant cycles (2022 and 2023). Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss shared that some of the direction that came out of that Approval Authority meeting was for LA-RICS to seek money elsewhere, including potentially the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), as well as some other grants. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss expressed the Authority has explained in detail to the Grantor and the UASI the program progress and the status of the project did not easily allow the Authority to seek new funding. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss provided an example, as 57 sites were already in construction, where the Authority could carve out a set of sites and request those sites be funded by a separate grant. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said the equipment for all of the sites had already been procured, therefore we could not cleanly carve out, for example for the sites in the coastal zone or the Catalina Island sites for a separate stand-alone grant project application that could fund that specific equipment. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said instead what the Authority needs to fund is the optimization and testing of those sites where construction has already been funded out of the UASI grant as well as equipment purchased via the UASI grant. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated it is a little bit cumbersome for those that are familiar with grant programs to carve out a project that is in progress and have it fit neatly into a grant application / allocation. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss continued by saying that nonetheless, the Authority has done its due diligence in seeking funding sources, local source of funds, the Authority has reached out to the SHSP and asked them to include LA-RICS in their application cycle of 2022. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated that some might be aware the Los Angeles/ Long Beach (LALB) region receives its regional funding allocation from the Federal Grantor under the two (2) major grants, UASI and SHSP. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said that UASI receives 84% of the regions funding and SHSP receives 16%. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss expressed that learning what occurred at the UASI Approval Authority, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), they are the State level Grant Administrator, issued a letter on November 23, 2021, to the UASI Approval Authority, the County CEO and LA-RICS asking that together with the Los Angeles LA/LB UASI stakeholders to mutually develop a regional solution for



completion of the LA-RICS project. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated that Cal OES understands the \$10 million dollar allocation over the two (2) grant cycles was not sufficient for the Authority to complete the program. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said the State is requiring the region develop a collaborative plan that is due to their office by no later than January 31, 2022. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss went on to say the date coincides with the date by when project workbooks are due to Cal OES for both UASI and SHSP grants. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said that on December 15, 2021, given receipt of the letter from CalOES, the UASI Approval Authority met again and voted to increase the previous allocation from \$10 million over two (2) years to \$15 million over three (3) years. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss stated the next day, December 6, 2021, the SHSP met to vote on its 2022 allocation awarding the proportionate regional allocation of \$3.5 million dollars, which is 16% of the regional funds to LA-RICS out of the 2022 grant cycle. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss went on to say that following the regional grant Approval Authority meeting, the Executive Director reached out to the City Mayor's Office and pressed hard to demand a meeting where the City and the Authority would mutually address the State's request for a written plan on how LA-RICS would be funded through completion. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss said the meeting thankfully yielded a good result, which was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2021, representatives from the Mayor's office including Deputy Mayor Gorell, representatives from County Chief Executive Office (CEO), including CEO Chief Deputy Nicchitta, which collaboratively committed to work to develop a plan that not only would incorporate the County and LA-RICS input, but would also be taken back to the Approval Authority for their opportunity to vote on the plan. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss expressed that given there is no solid award to share with the Committee at this point, the Authority did want to ensure the Committee that any work that is proceeding at this time is identified and has an identified fund source corresponding to it, and there is no work that will be performed or cost that will be incurred without its corresponding fund source identified.

Chair Geiger asked what the projected shortfall would be if all contingent grant approvals are in fact approved, as well as what the shortfall would be if they are not approved. Administrative Deputy Orellana-Curtiss responded by saying that with the current grant award allocations and commitments there is a \$13.5 million dollar shortfall in 2022, a \$6 million dollar shortfall in 2023, and a \$2 million dollar shortfall in 2024.

With the absence of any further comments or questions, Chair Geiger stated the report was received and moved on to the next Discussion Item.



#### **D. 2022 FINANCE FOR LA-RICS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Chair Geiger presented the Finance Committee proposed calendar for future meetings, which was agendaized on January 14, 2022.

Finance Committee approval is requested for the 2022 Schedule of LA-RICS Finance Committee's Regular Meetings.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

It is recommended that the Finance Committee:

1. Approve the following dates for the calendar year 2022 Finance Committee Regular Meeting Schedule:
  - January 20
  - March 17
  - May 19
  - July 21
  - September 15
  - November 17

All Regular Meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m. Pacific Time via Microsoft Teams until further notice, unless the requirements of state law pursuant to AB 361 can no longer be met.

Chair Geiger called for a motion. Committee Member DiBernardo motioned first, seconded by Interim Committee Member Alexander.

Ayes 7: Geiger, Jo, Crongeyer, Morales, Alexander, Walczak, and DiBernardo.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS – NONE**

**VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – NONE**

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE**

**IX. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE**





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

**XI. ADJOURNMENT and NEXT MEETING**

The next Regular Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., via Teleconference Meeting.

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

Committee Member Alexander motioned to adjourn.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

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AND FILED