



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL  
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Thursday, July 6, 2023 • 9:00 a.m.

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

**Richard Tadeo**, Director, EMS Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services

**David Povero**, Chief of Police, City of Covina Police Department

## ALTERNATES FOR BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

**Leslie Luke**, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office

**Eleni Pappas**, Alternate Vice-Chair, Deputy Fire Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

**Brian Yanagi**, Alternate Chair, Chief, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

**Phil Ambrose**, Battalion Chief, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association

**Shannon Robledo** Police Lieutenant, Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association

**Neal Cochran**, Captain, City of Inglewood Police Department

## OFFICERS PRESENT

**Scott Edson**, LA-RICS Executive Director

**Beatriz Cojulun**, LA-RICS, Board Secretary

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT / VACANT

**Vacant**, City Manager, California Contract Cities Association

**Vacant**, City of Signal Hill Police Department



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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Alternate Board Chair Brian Yanagi called the Regular meeting of the Board to order at 9:02 a.m.

**II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL**

Board Secretary Beatriz Cojulun took the roll and acknowledged a quorum was present.

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

**A. June 1 2023 – Regular Minutes**

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the attached minutes for the Regular Meeting Minutes on June 1, 2023. There were no questions or corrections, therefore, he asked for a motion to approve.

Board Member David Povero motioned first, seconded by Alternate Board Member Leslie Luke.

Ayes 7: Luke, Pappas, Yanagi, Tadeo, Robledo, Povero and Cochran.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE**

There was no public comment.

Alternate Board Member Phil Ambrose arrived during the notice of Public Comment and joined Board Meeting.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE**

There were no reports on the Regular Meeting Agenda.



## VI. REPORTS (B – E)

### B. Director's Report – Scott Edson

Executive Director Scott Edson greeted the Board members and all those in attendance.

Executive Director Edson reported briefly on the status of each of the Agenda Items that would be presented to the Board.

This concluded the report on Agenda Item B by Executive Director Edson. There was no further discussion.

### C. Project Manager's Report – Brian Smyth

Program Director Brian Smyth greeted the Board and presented Agenda Item C.

Program Director Smyth reported on the progress of the Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) reflects the forecast of a Final System Acceptance date of December 20, 2023; the County of Los Angeles (County) Sheriff's Department (LASD) cleared the remaining frequencies completing the Digital Trunk Voice Radio Subsystem (DTVRS) system cutover; MSI is working towards the cutover preparations of the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS), the Analog Voice Radio System (ACVRS), and the Narrowband Mobile Data Network 2 (NMDN2) Subsystems; restoration work at Mount McDill (MMC) and Frost Peak (FRP) cleared site access issues cause by the storms; Whitaker Middle Peak (WMP) access road restoration is a major repair and currently getting pricing; the County of Los Angeles (County) Fire Department (LACoFD) completed road repair work the Green Mountain (GRM) site allowing for truck fuel delivery, with power still pending; County Internal Services Department (ISD) is handling Right of Entry (ROE) authorizations and migration coordination, as well as starting migration installation work at the Mount Lukens (MTL2) site on June 26, 2023.

Program Director Smyth stated that site restoration work at MMC and FRP sites are the July 2023 focus, including commercial power work on the GRM site. and the WMP site access road repair; including the permanent backup generator installation work at the MCI site.

This concluded the presentation and report on Agenda Item C by Project Director Smyth.

There was no further discussion.

### D. Joint Operations and Technical Committee Chair's Report – Operations Lead Lieutenant Robert Weber



Operations Lead Lt. Weber shared the Joint Operations and Technical Committees meeting was held on June 20, 2023; Deputy Program Manager Riad ElMasri provided the Committees with an LMR System update; Technical Lead Ted Pao reported on the Regional Interoperability, as well as the Spectrum and Licensing and as a final report; and concluded with Technical Lead Pao providing an analysis on the LA-RICS system including all subsystems.

This concluded the presentation and report on Agenda Item E by Project Operations Lead Lt. Weber.

**E. Finance Committee Chair's Report – Finance Chair Leslie Luke**

Finance Lead Leslie Luke mentioned that due to unforeseen scheduling conflicts, the Finance Committee did not meet on June 22, 2023, although the budget was reviewed and would be presented as Agenda item H.

This concluded the presentation and report on Agenda Item E by Project Finance Chair Luke.

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS (F – H)**

**F. Spectrum and Licensing Issues Impacting Land Mobile Radio Deployment – Ted Pao**

Technical Lead Pao provided an update on the status of the Federal Communications System (FCC) licensing, stating that it has not been completed, with the Authority's future intent to provide technical support for subscribing agency licensing needs to operate on the LA-RICS LMR network.

Technical Lead Pao shared that Crown Castle has a tower adjacent to the Signal Hill (SGH) site, and assisted with connecting and conduct testing with one of the tenants, T-Mobile, which allowed the elimination of T-Mobile as an interference source, but would continue to work with Crown Castle to find the interference source.

Technical Lead Pao mentioned that as of June 30, 2023, the transition of the LASD Custody Communications to LA-RICS has been completed and the Custody Talkgroups are active. This transition was done with the assistance of LASD Communications Fleet Management Bureau (CFMB), ISD, MSI and LA-RICS. With LASD as the largest user, with two hundred and seventy-two (272) Talkgroups, it is roughly eighty-two percent (82%) of the voice traffic the digital trunked system.

This concluded the update on Agenda Item F. There was no further discussion.



**G. Outreach Update – Lieutenant Robert Weber**

During the month of June 2023, personnel from Motorola Solutions Inc. (MSI) continued with testing for the ACVRS and LARTCS. Authority staff members are planning for further participation in the testing process starting in August 2023. Operations Lead Lt. Weber reported that staff from the Authority and LASD Communications and Fleet Management Bureau (CFMB) conducted one (1) additional specialized four (4) wheel drive operation in order to assist with the refueling and road clearance of the GRM site. Operations Lead Lt. Weber by the end of May LASD's cutover to the DTVRS system was completed, as Authority staff continues to work with LASD through their migration out of all non-essential analog frequencies. Operations Lead Lt. Weber Authority staff participated in a Regional Interoperability meeting on June 15, 2023, which Technical Lead Ted Pao presented an overview of the LA-RICS system to the regions stake holders that was very positive, to which the Authority contemplates more coordination of meetings in the near future. Operations Lead Lt. Weber Authority and Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICI) staff conducted a meeting that was very productive, with the hopes of having additional coordination agreements to bring forward very soon.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber expressed that Authority staff proudly announced the execution of Early Onboarding Agreements with the City of Inglewood and the City of La Mirada, as the Authority works with both agencies as they onboard to the LA-RICS system. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say that Authority staff conducted additional outreach to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, City of Bellflower, and the City of Lancaster, which are evaluating their communications needs and the possibility of using LA-RICS, therefore, Authority staff will work closely with these agencies to ensure their needs are met.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber Authority staff members have continued close contact with State and Federal partners to ensure interoperability during major events and to further collaborate on regional public safety communication.

Operation Lead Lt. Weber also reported that over the July 4, 2023, weekend LASD tested Interface (ISSI) ICI with ICI, while LASD assisted the City of Hermosa Beach with their July 4, 2023, activities, which were very successful.

Board Member Povero mentioned that he previously had conversations with Executive Director Edson regarding interface, therefore, hearing an attendee from the Los Angeles County Chiefs Meeting indicating there was no interoperability between the two (2) systems, ICI and LA-RICS, although he knew the Authority was working on it, with agreements pending. Board Member Povero recommended the need for more meetings and messaging to the Chiefs in order to inform them and provide understanding of the actuality of the dealings of the interoperability between



the two (2) systems. Board Member Povero went on to say this is something essential for ICI and LA-RICS, that he would continue to work with Executive Director Edson on the subject. Board Member Povero mentioned the comments stated at the meeting, interested Sheriff Luna and the Under Sheriff and did reach out to Operation Lead Lt. Weber.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber expresses that agencies are looking for the “umbrella” model of the system, which have LASD frequencies on the radios, allowing agencies to directly switch to those frequencies, which he believes to be good compelling reasons for that. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further said the Authority has been diligent in the coordination with ICI System’s Chief Executive Director, Ray Edey, and reported there was good progress.

This concluded the update on Agenda Item G. Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked if there were any questions.

There was no further discussion.

## **VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (H – K)**

### **H. APPROVE THE FISCAL-YEAR 2023-24 RECOMMENDED LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY OPERATING BUDGET**

Executive Director Edson requested the Board approve the recommended operating budget for the continued operation of the LA-RICS Trunk powered Association.

Executive Director Edson stated the LA-RICS operating budget is in accordance with the cost factors identified in the Adopted Funding Plan, with those cost factors included grant funded line items, as well as Member Funded line items, which are funded by AT&T Business Agreement Funds and California State Budget Act of 2022 funds.

Executive Director Edson expressed the recommended budget before the Board included Federal and State revenue totaling \$31.3 million of grant-funded expenditures, as well as \$3.226 million in “Member Funded contributions”. Executive Director Edson went on to say the County Auditor/Controller serves as the fiscal agent for the LA-RICS Authority and reviewed the recommended budget before the Board.

Executive Director Edson reiterated what Finance Chair Luke stated earlier, in which the Finance Committee was not able to meet due to scheduling conflicts,



however, the Chair did review the budget and recommended adoption as stated in his report.

Executive Director Edson concluded his report with no further discussion.

Alternate Chair Chief Yanagi asked for a motion to approve. Alternate Board Member Eleni Pappas motioned first, seconded by Alternate Board Member Luke.

Ayes 8: Luke, Pappas, Yanagi, Tadeo, Ambrose, Robledo, Povero, Cochran.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**I. DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AMENDMENT TO SITE ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR COLLOCATION AT SIX (6) LAND MOBILE RADIO (LMR) SYSTEM SITES WITH COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, AND FOR FUTURE COLLOCATIONS AT OTHER LMR SITES WITH COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

Nancy Yang from the Site Access Agreement (SAA) Team, presented Agenda Item I, recommending the Board approve the execution of Amendment No. 1 for the SAAs with the County of Los Angeles for the sites Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Black Jack Peak (BJM), Daken Peak (DPK), Castro Peak (CPK), Tower Peak (TWR) sites to allow the County to collocate, install, operate and maintain County and Public Safety communications equipment at these sites, and the associated activities from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); to allow and collocate, install, operate, and maintain County and Public Safety communications equipment at the LMR sites, Rolling Hills Transmit (RHT) and San Pedro Hill (SPH) supporting the communications systems

Ms. Yang asked the Board to authorize the Executive Director to complete negotiations, finalize and executive Amendments to SAAs for the LMR Sites, BJM, CPK, DPK and TWR on at gratis basis, substantially similar to enclosure one (1) and for any new or additional or new Amendments for the term of the SAAs for these four (4) sites which must have approval from Counsel to the Authority.

Ms. Yang asked the Board to authorize the Executive Director to complete negotiations, finalize and executive Amendments to SAAs for the other LMR Sites RHT and SPH on at gratis basis, substantially similar to enclosure one (1) and for any new or additional or new Amendments for the term of the SAAs for these two (2) sites which must have approval from Counsel to the Authority.

Alternate Chair Chief Yanagi asked for a motion to approve. Chief Povero motioned first, seconded by Alternate Board Member Eleni Pappas.

Ayes 8: Luke, Pappas, Yanagi, Tadeo, Ambrose, Robledo, Povero, Cochran.



**MOTION APPROVED.**

**J. 2023 SCHEDULE OF LA-RICS BOARD MEETINGS REVISED**

Executive Director Edson presented Agenda item J which stated the location change of the of the JPA Board of Directors meetings to the LASD, Community College Bureau, 1055 Corporate Center Drive Monterey Park, CA 91754. Executive Director Edson added the meeting dates stay the same.

Alternate Chair Chief Yanagi asked for a motion to approve. Alternate Board Member Luke motioned first, seconded by Alternate Chair Chief Yanagi.

Ayes 8: Luke, Pappas, Yanagi, Tadeo, Ambrose, Robledo, Povero, Cochran.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**K. APPROVE AN INCREASE TO THE BUDGET FOR UNFORESEEN LAND MOBILE RADIO TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION WORK**

Executive Director Edson presented Agenda item K and requested the Board to approve and increase to the project's budget for unanticipated, unforeseen LMR construction and installation work to be performed by Metrocell at LMR System Sites.

Executive Director Edson stated the work includes antenna migration work, electrical work, weed abatement work, and generator refueling services for a total aggregate increase in the amount of \$137,393, which if approved by the Board would be funded by the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) 2022 grant and by California State Budget Act funds of 2022.

Executive Director Edson further stated the previous project budget was \$150,000, with an additional requested increase to project budget which was \$137,393 therefore, the new total aggregate amount would be \$287,393.

Executive Director Edson mentioned that as the Authority approaches Final LMR System Acceptance and the one (1) year Warranty Period, there is a need for additional work to be performed at certain LMR System Sites as previously mentioned.

Executive Director Edson went on to say the weed abatement is particularly urgent given the start of fire season and the proposed project budget increase contemplates the potential Change Orders for unforeseen, unanticipated work at





LMR System Sites that MSI is unable and/or declines to perform through Final LMR System Acceptance.

Executive Director Edson expressed that on behalf of the Authority, it is requested the Board make the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings delineated in the Board Letter in connection with the recommended actions.

Executive Director Edson informed the Board the Authority was requesting the Board delegate authority to himself to issue one or more Change Orders and Notices to Proceed (NTP) for the unforeseen work needed at the LMR System Sites provided they are within the project budget and approved as to form by Counsel to the Authority.

Alternate Chair Chief Yanagi asked for a motion to approve. Alternate Board Member Pappas motioned first, seconded by Chief Povero.

Ayes 8: Luke, Pappas, Yanagi, Tadeo, Ambrose, Robledo, Povero, Cochran.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

- IX. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – NONE**
- X. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE**
- XI. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE BOARD –**
- XII. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE**
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR MEETING AND NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi stated the next Regular Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), ELAC Community College Bureau, 1055 Corporate Center Drive, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:05 a.m. Board Member Povero motioned.