



# JOINT OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE  
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY**

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024, • 1:30 p.m.**

<b>OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
Vincent Capelle, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Aaron Fate, Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association
Jeff LaGree, At-Large Seat 9
<b>OPERATIONS ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
Brian Hoffman, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office
Grant Grunbaum, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Robert J. Weber, Chair, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Alfred Reyes, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8
<b>OPERATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:</b>
Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities Association
Vacant, At-Large Seat #10

<b>TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
Scott England, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Lipin Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Vincent Capelle, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Ted Pao, Chair, Los Angeles County Sheriff
Jeff LaGree, At-Large Seat 9
<b>TECHNICAL ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
Brian Hoffman, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office
Robert J. Weber, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8
<b>TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:</b>
Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities Association
Vacant, At-Large Seat #10

<b>OFFICERS PRESENT:</b>
Scott Edson, LA-RICS Executive Director
Nadine Luscombe, LA-RICS Project Team Member for Committee Secretary, Beatriz Cojulun



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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Operations Committee Alternate Chair Lieutenant Robert Weber called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m.

**II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL**

Nadine Luscombe took roll call and acknowledged a quorum was present for both Joint Operations and the Technical Committees.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber welcomed the new Joint Operations and Technical Committee Alternate Member, Captain Grant Grunbaum, representing the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (A)**

**A. December 19, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked the Committees for approval of the minutes. Joint Committee Alternate Member Captain Ric Walczak motioned first, seconded by Joint Committee Member Chief Vincent Capelle.

Operations Committee:

Ayes (8): Hoffman, Grunbaum, Weber, Reyes, Capelle, Fate, Walczak, LaGreek.

Technical Committee:

Ayes (8): England, Hoffman, Weber, Tan, Capelle, Pao, Walczak, LaGreek.

**MOTION APPROVED**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE**

There was no public comment.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE**

There were no Consent Calendar items.



## VI. REPORTS (B – D)

### B. Land Mobile Radio System Update – Brian Smyth

Program Director Brian Smyth greeted the Chairman and members of the Committee. Program Director Smyth reported that a different approach for the LMR update would be taken as the Project has transitioned from construction to oversight over Warranty and Maintenance Work.

Program Director Smyth presented a summary of topics, with an emphasis on several achievements, process improvement regarding Warranty/Maintenance oversight, logistics, regulatory compliance, and procurement.

#### **December Achievements**

Program Director Smyth stated that a meeting between California State Parks and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) was held to discuss issues causing permanent power delays at Green Mountain (GRM). Program Director Smyth further stated that a follow up meeting would be held this month to resolve pending items with the goal of obtaining a fully executed Right of Entry (ROE) agreement that will allow LA-RICS to obtain commercial power to the site.

#### **Road Access**

Program Director Smyth shared that United States Forest Services (USFS) offered to perform road repair work at Magic Mountain Link (MML) and Whitaker Middle Peak (WMP), as both sites suffered significant road damage from recent storms. Program Director Smyth further shared this work will be completed by end of the first quarter of 2024.

#### **SCAQMD (Southern California Air Quality Management District)**

Program Director Smyth expressed the project had three (3) variances which all occurred towards the end of 2023. Program Director Smyth further expressed all three (3) variances were completed, and that two (2) of the variances went over the 200-hour generator runtime limit, which resulted in minor fees that were incurred. Program Director Smyth reported that lessons were learned, and the Jacobs Project Management (PM) Team now has a better understanding of the Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) process. Program Director Smyth mentioned the PM Team does not anticipate applying for as many variances in 2024.



### **TWR Migration**

Program Director Smyth shared the second site bid walk for the old tower demolition was completed at Tower Peak (TWR). Program Director Smyth further shared that contractor bids are due by the end of January 2024. Program Director Smyth stated that tower demolition and migration work will be completed before the fox pupping season begins in March.

### **Gap Analysis**

Program Director Smyth reported the gap analysis report is in progress and, and the PM Team is analyzing the Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI) Warranty Plan, MSI's Subscriber User Agreement (SUA), and services that County Internal Services Department (ISD) has to offer. Program Director Smyth further reported the PM Team is in the process of developing estimates for services that will need to be procured that are not covered under MSI's Warranty and Maintenance Plans.

### **Warranty/Maintenance Oversight**

Program Director Smyth shared that, with respect to warranty and maintenance oversight, the PM Team has been working on their toolset. Program Director Smyth mentioned the PM Team has been steadily improving the shared calendar between LA-RICS and MSI. Program Director Smyth further mentioned the PM Team is ensuring that all maintenance/warranty activities are in the shared calendar, and the PM Team is working on accessibility to the shared calendar.

Program Director Smyth reported the PM Team is working on a Change Request (CRQ) process, which is the process of suppressing alarms in the event that an individual needs to visit a remote site to perform work. Program Director Smyth further reported that MSI is working on this process from their end, and the PM Team is primarily working on intruder alarms and unauthorized site access. Program Director Smyth stated the PM Team is planning supplemental improvements to the sites in the area of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and remote lock access and protocols for locks placed on the site access gates. Program Director Smyth further stated the PM Team is working on notifications that will be sent from the activity tracker, which will inform individuals of open action items and upcoming tasks.



Program Director Smyth shared that generator logs have vastly improved as generator information such as run time are in a spreadsheet compatible format. Program Director Smyth expressed, that within the generator log, are formulas that would help the PM Team identify outages, overruns, and trends. Program Director Smyth further expressed the generator logs would enable the PM Team to more accurately forecast when and if a generator is approaching the 200-hour SCAQMD limit. Program Director Smyth mentioned the schedule of refueling generators is in the log which would enable the PM Team to estimate fuel usage based on run times that are available.

### Logistics

Program Director Smyth shared the definition of logistics from the PM perspective, which is the process of managing resources, which include how the resources are coordinated with respect to scheduling, transportation, receiving, storage, and installation. Program Director Smyth further shared that an area of major focus is site access. Program Director Smyth expressed there are occasions when site access is compromised based on weather events, therefore, the PM Team is tracking the weather forecast to ensure that field personnel are prepared to perform site and road inspections in the aftermath of a weather event.

Program Director Smyth mentioned the PM Team is focused on the schedule for routine site inspections and Preventative Maintenance (PM) schedule activities such as generator refueling in order to avoid paying penalty fees for time and travel for individuals who are unable to access the site during a scheduled site visit. Program Director Smyth further mentioned that LA-RICS is developing a network of partners, such as USFS, who have assisted LA-RICS with road repairs. Program Director Smyth reported there are two (2) sites with smaller generator tanks which are Burnt Peak (BUR1) and Green Mountain (GRM) that require special attention. Program Director Smyth further reported that two (2) sites are tracked in a separate log to enable the PM Team to closely track fuel usage.

Program Director Smyth mentioned the ongoing need to coordinate ranger escorts for MSI and their vendors/subcontractors to the Santa Catalina Sites due to the unique logistical challenges of the location of these sites.

Program Director Smyth expressed that fuel reduction (weed abatement) work at USFS sites are being performed by MSI and ISD, where MSI performs work within the fenced areas and ISD performs work outside of the fenced areas. Program Director Smyth shared that fuel reduction work has



started on sites that have fuel load issues. Program Director Smyth further shared that program will be expanded to all sites and that upon completion of all sites, LA-RICS will notify USFS that this work is complete.

### **FAA (Federal Aviation Administration)**

Program Director Smyth mentioned that sites with beacon lights are being tracked and monitored, as it is a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirement for them to be notified of light outages.

### **Permitting**

Program Director Smyth reported that since all LMR sites have been formally accepted by LA-RICS, going forward, LA-RICS is responsible for permit fees and renewal fees. Program Director Smyth further reported the PM Team is developing a payment schedule for sites that require permit fees and a payment process for sites that have renewal fees.

### **General Inspections**

Program Director Smyth mentioned, with respect to fire suppression systems and other issues related to the Authority having jurisdiction, there will be an ongoing need for site inspections that may require follow up corrections by MSI.

### **Procurement**

Program Director Smyth expressed that procurement activities involve the general category for services that need to be provided or tasks that need to be completed post construction, and that that several tasks the PM Team is working on such as bringing permanent power to GRM. Program Director Smyth further expressed the PM Team is working on a power solution to BUR1, as the PM Team is working with Southern California Edison (SCE) to establish power connection to a solar field that SCE intends to install in the middle of 2024.

Program Director Smyth reported that bids for TWR demolition work are underway, and that work is anticipated to be complete before the end of March 2024.

Program Director Smyth further reported that LA-RICS is developing scope for gap services – primarily fuel reduction that MSI does not perform.



Program Director Smyth stated the PM Team is creating a list of contractors who can assist with general site repairs and improvements as well as security.

Program Director Smyth shared a presentation of online tools the PM Team is using such as MyView which is an online system that shows system performance metrics, PM documentation, incident reporting, and case status. Program Director Smyth further shared that MyView enables the PM Team and LA-RICS Technical Team to access information as it is readily available. Program Director Smyth mentioned the PM and LA-RICS Technical Teams review information in MyView regularly, as they are looking for patterns and trends in case opening, prioritization of cases, field service response times, and incident causation and resolution. Program Director Smyth further mentioned the PM and LA-RICS Technical Teams are more in control of data analysis and are looking for trends and ways to improve the LMR System, as MSI may not have the depth to provide such analysis.

Program Director Smyth shared the generator log with formulas embedded which flags sites that need attention. Program Director Smyth further shared that MSI is providing automation in their data reporting and are introducing notifications for sites that are approaching the two hundred (200) hour SCAQMD generator usage limit. Program Director Smyth stated this automation gives adequate time to apply for a variance as opposed to emergency variances that LA-RICS has applied for in the past.

This concluded the Project Mangers report with no additional discussion.

**C. Regional Interoperability Update – Operations Lead Lt. Weber**

Operations Lead Lt. Weber reported the Authority continues to meet with the regional partners, the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Working Group and will continue to follow up with the Joint Committee Members to appoint a representative for an Ad Hoc Committee that will work on Interoperability Issues and best practices for both law enforcement and fire department.

This concluded the Regional Interoperability Update with no additional discussion.

**D. LMR Network Operation Status and Issues– Technical Lead Ted Pao**

Technical Lead Ted Pao reported the operational status review of the LMR System for December 2023 remained relatively uneventful. Technical Lead





Pao further reported that despite occasional wind events and having two (2) LMR sites that rely on rollup generator power, there were no major outages or issues adversely affecting services for end users on the system. Technical Lead Pao mentioned that MSI successfully completed a system patch over a three (3) day period in December 2023 with no reported issues. Technical Lead Pao further mentioned the patch helped the LMR system stay up to date with the software bug-fixes and patches.

Technical Lead Pao said the LMR system was used to support the Rose Parade in Pasadena CA, which took place on January 1, 2024. Technical Lead Pao further said there were no reported interoperable issues impacting personnel using the network.

Technical Lead Pao shared the year-end statistics overview of system usage for 2023. Technical Lead Pao further shared that while the official migration of users onto the LMR network took place in May 2023, test users and training for selected individuals were conducted before migration. Technical Lead Pao stated that although these activities did not significantly impact LMR Network utilization, they played a crucial role in confirming proper network operation and providing end users exposure to a digital trunk operation system which include marking the transition from the analog system that end users have relied on for over three (3) decades. Technical Lead Pao added, as a result, the Authority is including these utilizations in the report.

Technical Lead Pao discussed airtime minutes that were accumulated in 2023 that followed a trend with past reports, showing the downtown Los Angeles cell as the busiest. Technical Lead Pao reported that users were not officially transitioned for operational use until May 2023, therefore, a full twelve (12) month usage of the system is not depicted. Technical Lead Pao expressed the Authority is expecting an increase in usage in 2024.

Technical Lead Pao stated a different way to measure how the system is being utilized is by the number of Push-to-Talk (PTT) transactions which took place in 2023. Technical Lead Pao further stated there were over 6.7 million PTTs in 2023. Technical Lead Pao added there were roughly 4.8 million for the top ten (10) sites that processed the transactions.

Technical Lead Pao reported that most PTT transactions took place at the Men's Central Jail (MCJ), however, this data was not shown in a previous statistical table which showed the downtown Los Angeles cell with the most PTT usage.





Technical Lead Pao asked Committee Members to take into consideration how personnel are using the radios, such as the in-custody division, versus patrol, which use the radios for different purposes. Technical Lead Pao stated the in-custody transmission involves welfare checks and security door access requests and, and such, are shorter in duration compared to the typical tactical transmission used by patrol personnel. Technical Lead Pao further stated this difference in usage is the reason for the difference between the number of PPTs versus the accumulative airtime for the cells.

Technical Lead Pao presented the top eight (8) agency breakdown of airtime for 2023, which include the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), County of Los Angeles Fire Department (LACoFD) and the City of Inglewood Police Department (IGPD) as the top three (3) agencies, with the District Attorney following.

Technical Lead Pao reported on the Rose Parade operations which were supported by LA-RICS on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2023, and New Year's Day, Monday January 1, 2024. Technical Lead Pao reported the LASD deputies played a vital role by providing manpower for the large-scale event. Technical Lead Pao further reported there were eleven (11) Talkgroups for the Rose Parade operation, with a total of seven-hundred and fifty-seven (757) unique users that had PTT usage.

Technical Lead Pao informed the Committee there were fifty-six thousand, nine-hundred and thirty-five seconds (56,935) of airtime used and nine-hundred and forty-nine (949) minutes of total talk time used. Technical Lead Pao added the LA-RICS "Event Fourteen (14) Clear Talkgroup" had the busiest talk time. Technical Lead Pao said that other area Talkgroups were known by different colored zones, such as the Brown, Gold, Green and Red zones.

Technical Lead Pao stated that two (2) primary cell sites used during the Rose Parade were San Gabriel Ultra High Frequency (UHF) and San Gabriel seven hundred (700) MHz. Technical Lead Pao said that other cells had small amounts of traffic, and that most calls used the San Gabriel cells. Technical Lead Pao further added the PTT count from the subscribers ramped up in the early evening on New Year's Eve and continued through the early morning hours and throughout New Year's Day.

Technical Lead Pao mentioned the talk time per hour in seconds increased in the early evening on New Year's Eve and slowly ramped up throughout New Year's Day peaking at 1:00pm then gradually decreasing in activity until 11:00pm.



Joint Committee Member Captain Ric Walczak asked if LA-RICS plans to saturate the area with additional sites in the future now that there is data reflecting areas where some are busier than others.

Technical Lead Pao's response was the size of the channel count for a cell could increase the capacity if needed. Technical Lead Pao added if a particular area were to receive busy tones, then more channels would be added.

Technical Lead Pao concluded his report.

Joint Committee Member Chief Capelle engaged in discussion regarding how the LA-RICS system would be used for sharing Identifications (ID) with different entities and mutual aid partners which include City of Los Angeles Fire, County of Los Angeles lifeguards and the City of Santa Monica Fire Department.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned that LA-RICS would need to review the request from the requesting agency and would evaluate the requests with the goal of utilizing the affiliate agreement, which was approved at the most recent LA-RICS Board of Directors meeting on January 4, 2024. The Committee Members continued discussions regarding creating an interoperable operational plan for Talkgroups where requests for IDs from other entities would go through LA-RICS directly for review from the requesting agency.

Executive Director Scott Edson stated if there is a need for interoperability the agency in need would contact LA-RICS. The goal is, given LA-RICS if bringing much more functionality to the region than experienced in the past that LA-RICS needs to hear from the agency directly to best understand the need and business purposes in order to best address how that can be achieved.

**VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – NONE**

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE**

**IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE – NONE**



**X. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

Operations Lead Lt. Weber called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Joint Committee Meeting, to which Technical Vice-Chair Scott England motioned first.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber adjourned the Regular Joint Operations and Technical Committee Meeting at 2:40 p.m. and stated the next Joint Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., at the LA-RICS Headquarters, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200, Large Conference Room, Monterey Park, California, 91754.

**APPROVED**