

APPENDIX E

NOP, COMMENTS MADE AT SCOPING MEETING, & RESPONSES TO NOP

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

95 Rowland Way, Novato, CA 94945

PHONE: (415) 878-2690

FAX: (415) 878-2660

WWW.MERAONLINE.ORG

N O P

NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING MERA NEXT GENERATION RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM PROJECT SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Facilities and meetings comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the MERA Operations Officer at (415) 473-4368.

The Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA), a joint powers agency, acting as the lead agency pursuant to Section 15050 of the CEQA Guidelines, will be preparing a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR) for the proposed Next Generation Radio Communications System Project (Next Gen System, or proposed project). The SEIR is being prepared by MERA in accordance with CEQA and the State of California CEQA Guidelines. Pursuant to Sections 15082(a) and 15375 of the CEQA Guidelines, MERA has issued this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects.

The MERA radio system is vital for emergency countywide communications between police, firefighters and public works crews. The emergency communications system is a network of radio antennas and equipment linked with microwave connections. However, the combination of older equipment and recent changes to frequency requirements by the *Congressional Jobs Bill HR 3630* now requires an upgrade of all UHF (T-band), including MERA's, radio communications systems. Funding for the system is generated by a parcel tax that was authorized by Marin County voters in 2014.

The current system includes 15 active communications sites. The MERA Next Gen System would retain and upgrade 10 of the functioning sites, decommission five existing sites and add equipment to eight new sites, which include previously developed infrastructure not part of the MERA system. New sites include communication and water tank sites and a water wellhead site in northern Marin County.

Existing sites used in Next Gen System:

- Civic Center
- Big Rock Ridge
- Mt. Tamalpais
- Mt. Barnabe
- Point Reyes Hill
- Dollar Hill
- San Pedro Ridge
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- Sonoma Mountain
- Stewart Point

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- Prime Site (Sheriff's dispatch center)
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The five sites to be decommissioned as part of the Next Gen System are: Forbes Hill in San Rafael, Mt. Burdell near Novato, Mill Valley City Hall and Mill Valley Police Station, and the Bay Hill Road site in Sonoma County.

LOCATIONS: Figure 1 shows the Next Gen System configuration and Table 1 provides a summary description of the communication sites including assessor parcel numbers and coordinates. A more detailed project description with a list of existing and proposed facilities at each site can be found on the MERA website: <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/pw/divisions/projects/mera>

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1) Land Use & Planning	7) Biological Resources	13) Aesthetics/Visual Resources
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Ernest Klock
Operations Officer, MERA

Table 1. MERA Sites and Locations for CEQA Evaluation

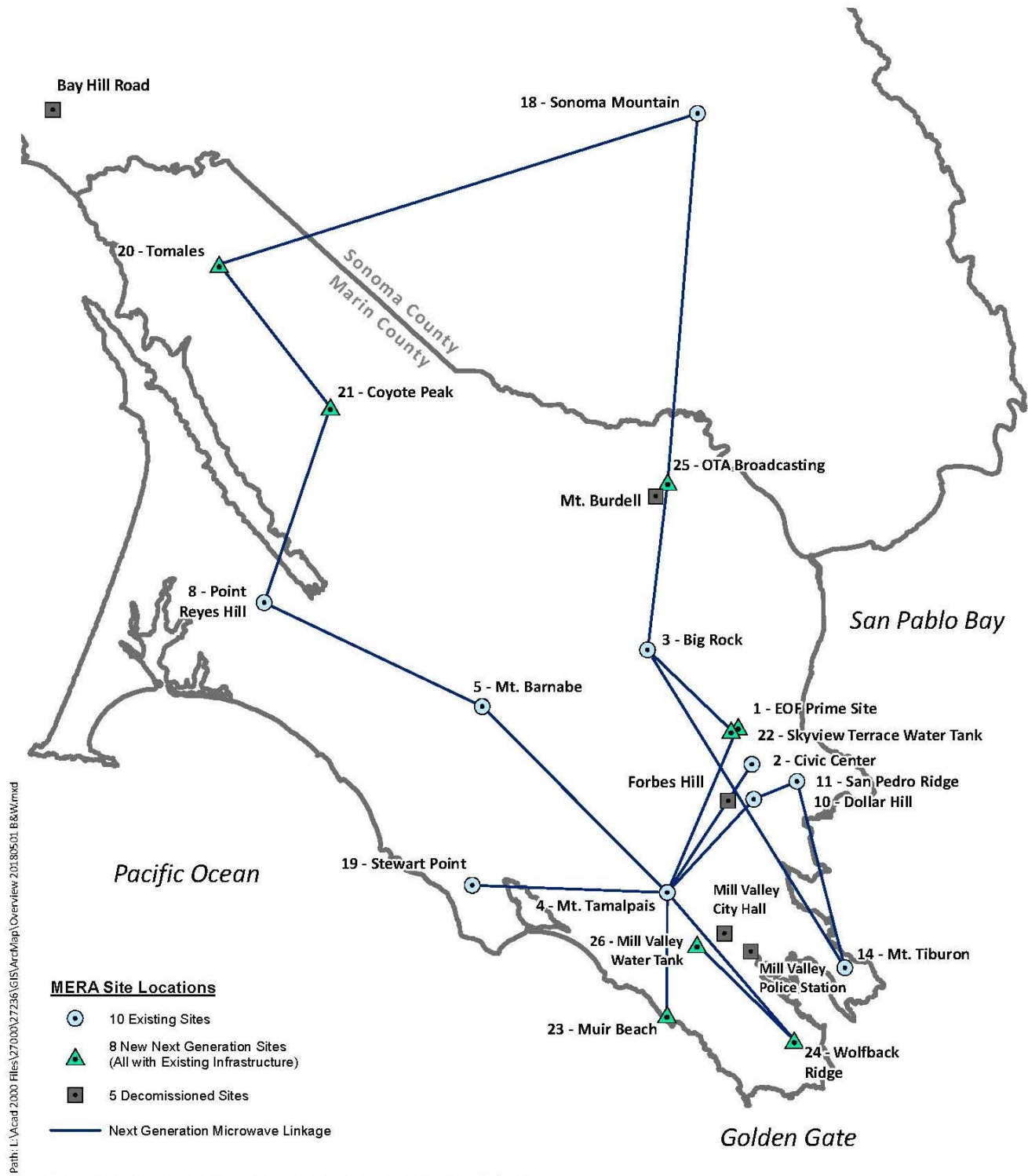
Site Name and Number	APN	Jurisdiction	Coordinates	Previous EIR	Comments
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19. Stewart Point**	188-090-15	Marin County	38.185833, -122.825167	Y	Upgrades
20. Tomales***	100-050-42	Marin County	38.017000, -122.546000	N	New site with cell tower and equipment
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23. Muir Beach	199-262-11	Marin County	38.149888, -122.593239	N	New site with local water tank
24. Wolfback Ridge	200-120-02	Marin County	37.902735, -122.558010	N	New site with existing 100' tower
25. Mt. Burdell OTA [^]	125-160-01	Marin County	38.261015, -122.903629	N	New site with existing structure and tower
26. Mill Valley Water Tank	046-070-03	Marin County	38.185833, -122.825167	N	New site with existing MMWD water tank

* Added to original EIR as an adjustment before its publication so signal from Mill Valley City Hall would be detected.

** Added to original EIR with a CEQA Amendment in 2006.

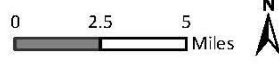
***Added to original EIR with a Categorical Exemption in 2012. Incorporated into SEIR to discuss whole action.

[^] EOF = Emergency Operations Facility, OTA = Over-the-Air Broadcasting



Sources: National Geographic Basemap, WRA | Prepared By: czumwalt, 5/3/2018

Figure X. MERA Next Generation System Configuration



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This notice was posted on 05/17/2018
and will remain posted for a period of thirty days
through 06/17/2018

Doc No. PST-201800084

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William F. Rousseau, County Clerk

BY: 
Julianna Garfia, Deputy Clerk

State Clearinghouse Confirmation of Receipt

From: "Stratton, Debra" <DStratton@marincounty.org>
Subject: FW: Notice of Preparation/Scoping Meeting MERA NextGen
Date: May 15, 2018 4:04:53 PM PDT
To: "Klock, Ernest" <EKlock@marincounty.org>, John Roberto
<jraplan@sbcglobal.net>

FYI

From: Christine Asiata <Christine.Asiata@OPR.CA.GOV> ^[SEP]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 4:04 PM ^[SEP]**To:** Stratton, Debra <DStratton@marincounty.org> ^[SEP]**Subject:** RE: Notice of Preparation/Scoping Meeting MERA NextGen

Thank you for your submittal, the SCH is in receipt of your NOP, it will start review tomorrow 5/16/2018.

Christine Asiata Rodriguez

From: OPR State Clearinghouse ^[SEP]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 3:11 PM ^[SEP]**To:** Christine Asiata <Christine.Asiata@OPR.CA.GOV> ^[SEP]**Subject:** FW: Notice of Preparation/Scoping Meeting MERA NextGen

From: Stratton, Debra <DStratton@marincounty.org> ^[SEP]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 3:05 PM ^[SEP]**To:** OPR State Clearinghouse <State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov> ^[SEP]**Cc:** Klock, Ernest <EKlock@marincounty.org>; John Roberto <jraplan@sbcglobal.net> ^[SEP]**Subject:** Notice of Preparation/Scoping Meeting MERA NextGen

Attached please find SCH document transmittal for the **NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING MERA NEXT GENERATION RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM PROJECT SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT.**

Marin Independent Journal

4000 Civic Center Drive, Suite 301
San Rafael, CA 94903
415-382-7335
legals@marinij.com
2071509

MARIN COUNTY PLANNING DEPT
3501 CIVIC CENTER DR
RM 308
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903-4189

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of Marin**

O. 41PWPMERA- PWMSCSVCS / 10115551 / :

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid: I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of the MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the County of Marin, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Marin, State of California, under date of FEBRUARY 7, 1955, CASE NUMBER 25566; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

05/17/2018

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 17th day of May, 2018.

Donna Lazarus

Signature

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Legal No. **0006156235**

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018

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22. Skyview Terrace Water Tank	165-220-02	City of San Rafael	37.851085, -122.498376	N	New site with MMWD water tank
23. Muir Beach	199-262-11	Marin County	38.149888, -122.593239	N	New site with local water tank
24. Wolfback Ridge	200-120-02	Marin County	37.902735, -122.558010	N	New site with existing 100' tower
25. Mt. Burdell OTA^	125-160-01	Marin County	38.261015, -122.903629	N	New site with existing structure and tower
26. Mill Valley Water Tank	046-070-03	Marin County	38.185833, -122.825167	N	New site with existing MMWD water tank

* Added to original EIR as an adjustment before its publication so signal from Mill Valley City Hall would be detected.

** Added to original EIR with a CEQA Amendment in 2006.

*** Added to original EIR with a Categorical Exemption in 2012. Incorporated into SEIR to discuss whole action.

^ EOF = Emergency Operations Facility, OTA = Over-the-Air Broadcasting

Figure 1. MERA Next Generation System Configuration

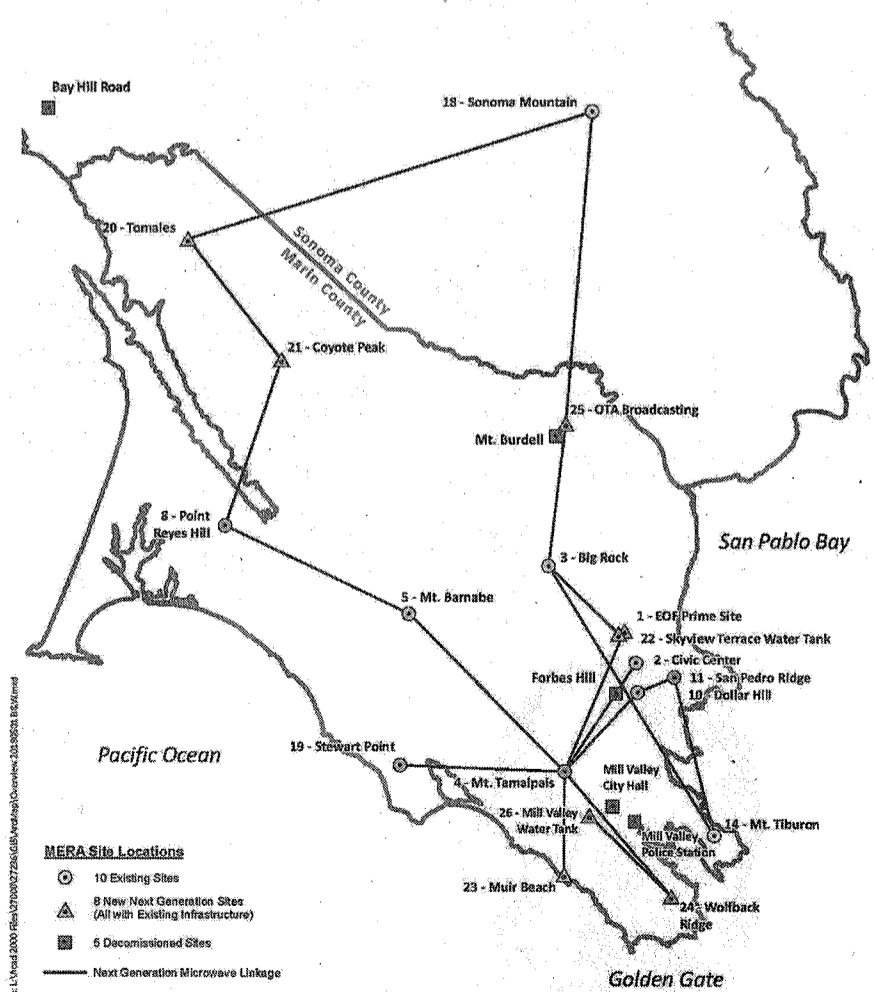


Figure X. MERA Next Generation System Configuration



Scoping Meeting Transcript
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY (MERA)

In the Matter of:)
)
Next Generation Radio Communications)
System Project Public Scoping Meeting)
Subsequent Environmental Impact Report)
_____)

MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER
3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
SUITE 330
SAN RAFAEL, CA

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018

6:30 P.M.

Reported by: Julie Link

APPEARANCES

MERA STAFF:

Ernest Klock, Operations Officer, MERA

Maureen Cassingham, Executive Officer, MERA

Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer, MERA

Trisha Ortiz, Legal Counsel, MERA

CONSULTANTS:

Paul Curfman, Senior Environmental Planner, WRA, Inc.

John Roberto, Environmental Consultant, JRA Associates

PUBLIC: (* Via Phone)

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2) Purpose of the meeting	4
3) The MERA System	5
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5) Scope of Analysis	14
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8) Adjournment	19

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MAY 31, 2018

6:44 p.m.

3 MR. KLOCK: On the record. We are starting the
4 Subsequent Environmental Impact Report Public Scoping
5 Meeting for the Marin Emergency Radio Authority Next Gen
6 Project. We will pause until members of the public show
7 up.

8 (Off the record at 6:44 p.m.)

9 (On the Record at 7:01 p.m.)

10 MR. KLOCK: Yes, on the record. We are going to
11 go ahead and give our presentation on the MERA Next Gen
12 System SEIR Project. It is 7:02. The meeting started at
13 6:30. No members of the public have shown up yet. We will
14 go ahead and give the presentation, reference the slide
15 number and post the presentation online after the meeting.

16 So this is the MERA Next Gen System Subsequent
17 Environmental Impact Report Scoping Meeting on May 31st,
18 2018 for the Marin Emergency Radio Authority. And that was
19 slide 1.

20 I have with me environmental consultants, John
21 Roberto and Paul Curfman. I also have, in the audience,
22 the MERA Executive Officer, Maureen Cassingham and MERA
23 Counsel, Trisha Ortiz and the MERA Deputy Executive Officer
24 Dave Jeffries.

25 Moving to slide 2, the Marin Emergency Radio

1 Authority is comprised of 25 member agencies, the cities
2 and towns around Marin County, County Unincorporated on
3 various police authorities, utility districts and fire
4 protective districts.

5 Moving to slide 3, the agenda. The purpose of
6 this meeting is to receive scoping comments on the scope of
7 our analysis on this Subsequent Environmental Impact
8 Report. We're going to talk a little bit about the
9 existing MERA system. We're going to talk about the Next
10 Generation Project and how it's going to modify the
11 existing MERA system. We're going to talk about the scope
12 of the analysis. And we're going to talk about the CEQA
13 process and how to provide public comment during this
14 phase.

15 Moving to slide 4, the purpose of the scoping
16 meeting. The original MERA EIR was certified in 2000. The
17 findings on that existing MERA system still hold true
18 throughout this SEIR process. We're going to learn about
19 the MERA Proposed Next Gen System Project. We're going to
20 provide direct input on the scope of the Subsequent EIR.
21 Members of the public could provide comment to do that, if
22 they were here. And we're going to learn about additional
23 opportunities for input on the Subsequent EIR, after the
24 Scoping Meeting here, when we're generating the draft
25 document and looking at that.

1 Moving to slide 5, why are we updating the MERA
2 system? It's an aging system. It's difficult to find
3 replacement parts. We want to improve the radio coverage
4 and signal strength. We need to expand the user capacity.
5 There's a Congressional mandate that we vacate the UHF T-
6 band frequencies and move to 700 MHz. And with all that,
7 the voters supported and approved Measure A funding in
8 2014.

9 Really, this is about improving emergency radio
10 coverage for members of the public for their benefit, such
11 that the emergency and first responders can get to members
12 of the public and serve them better. We'll go ahead and
13 run through the objectives of the MERA Next Gen Project on
14 slide 6.

15 So we want to improve coverage and service
16 quality. We want to use existing sites and facilities
17 where possible and minimize tower heights in doing so. We
18 want to modernize the system to increase its resilience,
19 increase the audio quality, increase the reliability and be
20 able to use the 700 to 800 MHz frequencies required by the
21 federal mandate. We also want to improve mutual aid
22 interoperability and integrate the emergency operations
23 facility into the system.

24 So how are we going to do this? The project
25 description involves the use of existing sites and the

1 installation of new sites. I say new sites in that they
2 are new to the MERA system, but they are not new sites in
3 the sense that they don't exist today in some fashion.

4 As we go through the presentation, you'll see
5 that many of the existing sites will still work with the
6 system. The new sites have existing facilities on them.
7 Whether they're communication facilities or other public
8 utilities, all of the new sites do have some disturbance on
9 them. And then with the new system, we'll be able to
10 decommission five sites. We'll go ahead and turn to slide
11 8 and look at the project map. And I'll go ahead and list
12 off all of the sites that we're going to be using in the
13 Next Gen Project System.

14 So the existing sites are at Civic Center, Big
15 Rock Ridge, Mt. Tamalpais, Mt. Barnabe, Point Reyes Hill,
16 Dollar Hill, San Pedro Ridge, Mt. Tiburon, Sonoma Mountain
17 and Stewart Point. The existing sites are denoted part of
18 the legend with a circle.

19 The new sites include the Prime Site at the
20 Emergency Operations Facility, Tomales, Coyote Peak,
21 Skyview Terrace, Muir Beach, Wolfback Ridge, Mt. Burdell at
22 OTA Broadcasting, Mill Valley Water Tank. And those new
23 sites are denoted by a triangle on the exhibit shown on
24 slide 8.

25 And the five decommissioned sites are shown with

1 a gray square. And those Forbes Hill in San Rafael, Mt.
2 Burdell near Novato, Mill Valley City Hall and the Public
3 Safety Building or police station, and the Bay Hill Road
4 site in Sonoma County.

5 With that, I'll turn it over to Paul Curfman, for
6 slide 9.

7 MR. CURFMAN: Thanks, Ernest.

8 Slide 9 shows a copy of the spreadsheet that
9 describes each of the site improvements. And this
10 spreadsheet is up to show you how it's really laid out, not
11 so much to actually read the contents of it. There's a copy
12 of the spreadsheet on the handout that has the map, so an
13 11 X 17 handout with a map on one side. And then also in
14 the back we have two boards that have the same spreadsheet
15 that is fully readable and you can discern all of the site
16 improvements.

17 There's 26 sites, which are on the rows from top
18 to bottom. The first site is across the top. It's the
19 Emergency Operations Facility or the EOF, sometimes called
20 the Prime Site. And that is where the Marin County
21 Sherriff's offices are and Central Dispatch.

22 Then the existing sites are shown in green. And
23 there are multiple existing sites, like two at the Civic
24 Center, continuing down on page one to site 13. All these
25 sites are numbered in the same order that they're presented

1 in the original EIR that was certified in 2000. That's the
2 reason for this numbering system, so when you go to the
3 next page you'll see that the higher numbered sites, sites
4 number 20 through 26, are the new sites. Those are new to
5 MERA as Earnest mentioned. They are not necessarily
6 undeveloped sites. In fact, all of them have existing
7 infrastructure on them including MMWD water tanks, a cell
8 tower in one case, a water well headsite at Coyote Peak.

9 On this spreadsheet also, the sites are located
10 by the assessor's parcel number as well as the coordinates
11 where they are specifically located on latitude and
12 longitude, so that they can be found through mapping
13 programs.

14 And then the last two columns on this spreadsheet
15 describe the existing facilities that are found at the
16 site. And the final column on the right side, it shows the
17 proposed facilities that the next gen project will complete
18 at the site. It's the difference between the existing
19 facilities and the proposed facilities at each site that
20 will be the focus of this Subsequent EIR.

21 So the two spreadsheets that we've been talking
22 about are on slides 9 and 10. And I just wanted to briefly
23 mention the eight new sites at the bottom, that the Prime
24 Site in fact, is the existing Sheriff's Dispatch Center.
25 Tomales is number 20. It's got an existing cell tower site

1 and there are well, numerous other sites that we can talk
2 about. The spreadsheet describes the existing facilities
3 on each site.

4 We picked three sites to go through in the
5 presentation here today as example sites. The first site
6 is the Dollar Hill Site; this is number 10 on the
7 spreadsheet. And this is an existing site. It's one of
8 the most visible sites in Eastern Marin County. It's in
9 the middle of San Rafael and it can be seen from Highways
10 101 and 580, as you're coming in to San Rafael. This
11 photograph is actually taken from the San Rafael High
12 School ball field. And it's a shared site. There are two
13 towers on the site. You can see, right at the apex of
14 Dollar Hill is the single tower. That's the MERA tower.
15 And then there's a triple tower just off to the right or to
16 the northwest of the top of the hill and that is a
17 privately owned site. And these are images of those. The
18 MERA site is the taller, more slender tower. And the
19 privately-owned site is the triple tower.

20 So on that central more slender tower, that tower
21 is a 65-foot tall three-legged tower. Each of the faces
22 are about 12-feet wide or probably exactly 12-feet wide.
23 There are two buildings on the site that are about 10 feet-
24 by-20 feet, and a water tank and a pump on the site. So
25 that's what's represented in the elevation on the left.

1 And then on the right you can see that there's a
2 slightly different tower design, but essentially it's
3 similar. On that tower, there are minor equipment changes
4 proposed. This is slide 13 that we're looking at. And on
5 the proposed equipment, it modifies a couple of the
6 microwave dishes and antenna sites. There's two dishes
7 added, two dishes removed, eight antennas added and three
8 antennas removed. So there's a combination of addition and
9 subtraction that ultimately make the visible changes on the
10 tower.

11 Another site that we chose as an example, the
12 second of the example sites is Tomales. And this is shown
13 on slide 14. And this is an example of a single use site.
14 It's minimally developed at this point. It has a cellular
15 equipment building and a couple of cell towers on the
16 knoll. This is just north on Highway 1 north of Tomales.
17 And at this site, in addition to the cell tower equipment
18 that is there MERA proposes to add a new 75-foot tall
19 monopole, a new shelter just to the right of that equipment
20 structure approximately the same size as that as well as an
21 emergency generator, a fuel tank and a fence around the
22 facility. New power will have to be brought into it as
23 well and that will follow the same path that provides power
24 to this piece of equipment.

25 So this is the diagram of that site, of the

1 proposed equipment there. The 75-foot monopole is the
2 vertical element on the left. Pretty much all you're going
3 to see there is that vertical monopole. Just be aware that
4 the horizontal lines and the diagonal lines are all leader
5 lines, describing what's visible on that elevation.
6 Everything that is there in the drawing is a proposed
7 element including microwave dishes and vertical antennas.

8 In the third site shown on slide 16. And it's
9 the Mt. Tiburon site. The Mt. Tiburon site is existing and
10 this is adjacent to two existing twin MMWD water tanks on
11 Mt. Tiburon. It provides a direct line of sight to a
12 couple of different towers. I can't remember right now.
13 And it's pretty well camouflaged in the woods. It's
14 adjacent to large lot residences in the neighborhood.
15 There's also an open space next to it. There is a public
16 trail that goes right next to the fence, adjacent to it.
17 You can see the fence in the center of the photograph.

18 The existing facilities here include an existing
19 60-foot tall monopole in the center of the photograph, as
20 well as a smaller 22-foot monopole. The design was
21 intended to minimize visual impacts and as a result of the
22 EIR that was produced in 2000 and those were some of the
23 mitigation measures brought to bear on the project.

24 The next slide, slide 17, shows the elevations at
25 the Mt. Tiburon site, comparing the existing to the

1 proposed. We saw the existing. And the proposed would
2 swap out microwave dishes that pretty much look the same
3 and a couple of new antennas would be placed on top of the
4 monopole. And visually, that's pretty much all you're
5 going to see at Mt. Tiburon.

6 The next slide is slide 18 and John is going to
7 present the CEQA requirements and the scope of our
8 analysis.

9 MR. ROBERTO: My name is John Roberto, an
10 Environmental Consultant working with MERA. And I'd like
11 to talk right now a little bit about this Supplemental
12 Environmental Impact Report process. Slide number 18,
13 outlines the subsequent EIR. When we were doing this,
14 there was a full EIR prepared back in the year 2000
15 comprised of three large volumes. Those are available to
16 see and to read on the MERA CEQA website, which we have
17 copies of the address here in the Notice of Preparation, if
18 you wanted to look at that. And you can then read the
19 document there.

20 The Subsequent EIR is going to evaluate the Next
21 Generation Project. And we are going to look at the
22 changes that occurred both as a result of the project and
23 how the environment may have changed at each one of these
24 sites. So we're going to go back and revisit the year 2000
25 EIR to validate the information in there. And we'll make

1 whatever changes to the EIR that are necessary to bring it
2 up to date; and the subsequent EIR will identify any new or
3 more significant impacts that result from the Next Gen
4 Project.

5 In the Supplemental EIR, we will also consider
6 alternatives to the project. And we'll also evaluate
7 cumulative impacts, such as when you place antennas on an
8 existing tower with other facilities for other users, as we
9 have in the case of the San Rafael site. We'll look at the
10 cumulative impact of the radio frequency impacts of all
11 those facilities together and evaluate what that will be.

12 The SEIR will also take a look at the cumulative
13 visual impacts of the MERA site at combined sites with
14 other facilities to see if that makes a significant change.
15 So those are the kinds of things that we're going to look
16 at in the Subsequent EIR.

17 Now in terms of the scope, the scope of the
18 Subsequent EIR is we are going to look at every aspect of
19 the environment, starting with geology and the climatology
20 and the biology. But based on the findings of the original
21 EIR, which was certified in the year 2000, we believe that
22 the effects of the MERA project will be similar, because it
23 is a similar type of project. And those impacts are really
24 in the areas of aesthetics, the visual impact of the
25 facilities in the locations where they are placed, the

1 biologic resources at some of the new sites where there may
2 be other facilities there, but we're going to occupy new
3 ground in that area. And we'll look at what the effects
4 are on the local biology there. We'll look at the radio
5 frequency exposure, as I mentioned earlier, at all of the
6 sites. We'll evaluate the existing condition. We'll
7 evaluate what the MERA project will do. And we'll evaluate
8 what the MERA project will do in sequence with all the
9 other facilities that may be there from other users, at
10 these combined sites.

11 Also, we'll be looking at cultural resources and
12 we'll be having consultations with Native American groups
13 and tribes in this area. And we'll evaluate what those
14 impacts are under Senate Bill 52 that was passed to give
15 real consideration to the impacts on cultural resources.

16 We'll also look at land use regulations and how
17 they may have changed since the original EIR was certified
18 in the year 2000. Other impacts we'll look at will be
19 noise and others, but why are we concentrating on these?

20 Well, typical impacts that you might expect in an
21 EIR, one is traffic. Everybody likes to talk about
22 traffic. But in this situation, after we have construction
23 completed, the traffic generated by this facility will be
24 on the average of one trip a month for a technician to come
25 to the site and check out the equipment. If maintenance

1 needs to be done, there may be more trips, but this will
2 not generate a whole lot of traffic trips on the local road
3 network. So those are the areas of focus of the Subsequent
4 EIR.

5 I'd like to talk just briefly now about the
6 process. The last few days back, on May 17th, we issued a
7 Notice of Preparation that MERA was going to prepare a
8 Subsequent EIR. This is on slide 20. That MERA was going
9 to prepare a Subsequent EIR, that we are holding a MERA
10 Scoping Meeting tonight, May 31st.

11 And after this, the scoping period will end on
12 June 18th. This is the time period when anyone who's
13 interested in this report and the environmental impacts
14 should submit comments on what they want MERA to consider
15 in their SEIR. What should we consider in the SEIR? Have
16 we missed anything? And these are the comments we're
17 looking for from the public and other public agencies.
18 They have until June 18th, under the law, to submit those
19 comments. And they there's a closing period under the law.

20 Over the summer, after the end of that, we will
21 prepare the Draft EIR. And the EIR will be prepared by a
22 firm called WRA that is under contract to MERA to prepare
23 the Draft EIR. When that Draft EIR is completed, and we
24 expect that to be sometime in the fall, we don't know
25 exactly how long it's going to take, but that EIR will be

1 quite detailed. It'll be a detailed description of the
2 project. It'll give detailed impacts on all of these
3 sites. There'll be visual photo simulations of each of
4 these sites and the new facilities go in there, so all the
5 information will be in this draft.

6 When we receive that draft and it's ready for
7 publication, we'll issue a Notice of Completion of the
8 draft. That notice will go in the paper. The draft will
9 become available both on the website and we'll have other
10 ways to get the draft to people in libraries. There'll be
11 a 45-day review period, where the public can look at this
12 Draft EIR and submit comments on the draft to the MERA
13 Board. MERA will also hold a public meeting during that
14 45-day period, to receive public comment on the Draft EIR.
15 Once that process is ended, MERA will then direct its staff
16 to prepare the Final Environmental Impact Report.

17 Now the Final Environmental Impact Report will
18 consist of all comments received on the Draft EIR. We will
19 prepare written responses to all those comments that were
20 submitted on the draft. We will issue a Notice of
21 Availability when we have completed all those responses to
22 comments and they are available for public review. I
23 anticipate that there will be a public review period of
24 about 14 days on the Final EIR.

25 The MERA board will hold a meeting to consider

1 the Final EIR. They may or may not take public comments at
2 that meeting. They are not required to do so, by law. But
3 they will hold a meeting to consider the Final EIR. And at
4 that point, we anticipate that the MERA Board will make a
5 decision on the Final EIR or at some meeting they set later
6 after that meeting.

7 What will happen is, once the SEIR has been
8 certified, then the MERA Board can consider its project and
9 whether or not they want to make any changes to that
10 project or not. And at that point, the MERA Board can move
11 forward with the project or modified project and the EIR
12 process will have been completed.

13 Ernest?

14 MR. KLOCK: Thank you, John.

15 So that concludes our presentation. It is now
16 7:27. I want to make note that one member of the public
17 has arrived during the presentation and if there's no
18 questions on the presentation, we would love to open it for
19 public comment on this project.

20 (Off mic colloquy.)

21 MR. KLOCK: Off the record please.

22 (Off the record at 7:26 p.m.)

23 (On the record at 8:30 p.m.)

24 MR. KLOCK: No additional members of the public
25 showed up. We are hereby closing the Public Scoping

1 Meeting of the MERA Next Gen Subsequent EIR Project.

2 (The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.)

3

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Environmental and Cultural Department
 1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
 West Sacramento, CA 95691
 Phone (916) 373-3710
 Email: nahc@nahc.ca.gov
 Website: <http://www.nahc.ca.gov>
 Twitter: @CA_NAHC



May 29, 2018

Ernest Klock
 Marin Emergency Radio Authority
 3501 Civic Center Dr.
 San Rafael, CA 94903

RE: SCH#1999092073, Marin Public Safety & Emergency Communications, Marin and Sonoma County

Dear Mr. Klock:

The Native American Heritage Commission has received the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the project referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code section 21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064.5 (b) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (b)). If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report (EIR) shall be prepared. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064 subd.(a)(1) (CEQA Guidelines § 15064 (a)(1)). In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources with the area of project effect (APE).

CEQA was amended significantly in 2014. Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) (AB 52) amended CEQA to create a separate category of cultural resources, "tribal cultural resources" (Pub. Resources Code § 21074) and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.2). Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.3 (a)). **AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation or a notice of negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015.** If your project involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space, on or after March 1, 2005, it may also be subject to Senate Bill 18 (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (SB 18). **Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements.** If your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. § 800 et seq.) may also apply.

The NAHC recommends consultation with California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources. Below is a brief summary of portions of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC's recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments. **Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.**

AB 52

AB 52 has added to CEQA the additional requirements listed below, along with many other requirements:

1. **Fourteen Day Period to Provide Notice of Completion of an Application/Decision to Undertake a Project:** Within fourteen (14) days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, a lead agency shall provide formal notification to a designated contact of, or tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, to be accomplished by at least one written notice that includes:

- a. A brief description of the project.
 - b. The lead agency contact information.
 - c. Notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (d)).
 - d. A "California Native American tribe" is defined as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of Statutes of 2004 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21073).
2. Begin Consultation Within 30 Days of Receiving a Tribe's Request for Consultation and Before Releasing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report: A lead agency shall begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a request for consultation from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subds. (d) and (e)) and prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1(b)).
 - a. For purposes of AB 52, "consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in Gov. Code § 65352.4 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (b)).
 3. Mandatory Topics of Consultation If Requested by a Tribe: The following topics of consultation, if a tribe requests to discuss them, are mandatory topics of consultation:
 - a. Alternatives to the project.
 - b. Recommended mitigation measures.
 - c. Significant effects. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
 4. Discretionary Topics of Consultation: The following topics are discretionary topics of consultation:
 - a. Type of environmental review necessary.
 - b. Significance of the tribal cultural resources.
 - c. Significance of the project's impacts on tribal cultural resources.
 - d. If necessary, project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
 5. Confidentiality of Information Submitted by a Tribe During the Environmental Review Process: With some exceptions, any information, including but not limited to, the location, description, and use of tribal cultural resources submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with Government Code sections 6254 (r) and 6254.10. Any information submitted by a California Native American tribe during the consultation or environmental review process shall be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the tribe that provided the information consents, in writing, to the disclosure of some or all of the information to the public. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (c)(1)).
 6. Discussion of Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources in the Environmental Document: If a project may have a significant impact on a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency's environmental document shall discuss both of the following:
 - a. Whether the proposed project has a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource.
 - b. Whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures, including those measures that may be agreed to pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (a), avoid or substantially lessen the impact on the identified tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (b)).
 7. Conclusion of Consultation: Consultation with a tribe shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs:
 - a. The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or
 - b. A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (b)).
 8. Recommending Mitigation Measures Agreed Upon in Consultation in the Environmental Document: Any mitigation measures agreed upon in the consultation conducted pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2 shall be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and in an adopted mitigation

monitoring and reporting program, if determined to avoid or lessen the impact pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (b), paragraph 2, and shall be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (a)).

9. Required Consideration of Feasible Mitigation: If mitigation measures recommended by the staff of the lead agency as a result of the consultation process are not included in the environmental document or if there are no agreed upon mitigation measures at the conclusion of consultation, or if consultation does not occur, and if substantial evidence demonstrates that a project will cause a significant effect to a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency shall consider feasible mitigation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21084.3 (b). (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (e)).
10. Examples of Mitigation Measures That, If Feasible, May Be Considered to Avoid or Minimize Significant Adverse Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources:
 - a. Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context.
 - ii. Planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.
 - b. Treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.
 - ii. Protecting the traditional use of the resource.
 - iii. Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.
 - c. Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.
 - d. Protecting the resource. (Pub. Resource Code § 21084.3 (b)).
 - e. Please note that a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC to protect a California prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place may acquire and hold conservation easements if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. (Civ. Code § 815.3 (c)).
 - f. Please note that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated. (Pub. Resources Code § 5097.991).
11. Prerequisites for Certifying an Environmental Impact Report or Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration with a Significant Impact on an Identified Tribal Cultural Resource: An environmental impact report may not be certified, nor may a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration be adopted unless one of the following occurs:
 - a. The consultation process between the tribes and the lead agency has occurred as provided in Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21080.3.2 and concluded pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.
 - b. The tribe that requested consultation failed to provide comments to the lead agency or otherwise failed to engage in the consultation process.
 - c. The lead agency provided notice of the project to the tribe in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) and the tribe failed to request consultation within 30 days. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (d)).

The NAHC's PowerPoint presentation titled, "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices" may be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf

SB 18

SB 18 applies to local governments and requires local governments to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space. (Gov. Code § 65352.3). Local governments should consult the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's "Tribal Consultation Guidelines," which can be found online at: https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09_14_05_Updated_Guidelines_922.pdf

Some of SB 18's provisions include:

1. **Tribal Consultation:** If a local government considers a proposal to adopt or amend a general plan or a specific plan, or to designate open space it is required to contact the appropriate tribes identified by the NAHC by requesting a "Tribal Consultation List." If a tribe, once contacted, requests consultation the local government must consult with the tribe on the plan proposal. **A tribe has 90 days from the date of receipt of notification to request consultation unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by the tribe.** (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (a)(2)).
2. **No Statutory Time Limit on SB 18 Tribal Consultation.** There is no statutory time limit on SB 18 tribal consultation.
3. **Confidentiality:** Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Gov. Code section 65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of the information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of places, features and objects described in Public Resources Code sections 5097.9 and 5097.993 that are within the city's or county's jurisdiction. (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (b)).
4. **Conclusion of SB 18 Tribal Consultation:** Consultation should be concluded at the point in which:
 - a. The parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
 - b. Either the local government or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation. (Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (2005) at p. 18).

Agencies should be aware that neither AB 52 nor SB 18 precludes agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52 and SB 18. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Contact Lists and "Sacred Lands File" searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: <http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/>

NAHC Recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments

To adequately assess the existence and significance of tribal cultural resources and plan for avoidance, preservation in place, or barring both, mitigation of project-related impacts to tribal cultural resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

1. Contact the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068) for an archaeological records search. The records search will determine:
 - a. If part or all of the APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
 - b. If any known cultural resources have been already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
 - c. If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - d. If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
 - a. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum and not be made available for public disclosure.
 - b. The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional CHRIS center.
3. Contact the NAHC for:
 - a. A Sacred Lands File search. Remember that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the Sacred Lands File, nor are they required to do so. A Sacred Lands File search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project's APE.
 - b. A Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in planning for avoidance, preservation in place, or, failing both, mitigation measures.

4. Remember that the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources (including tribal cultural resources) does not preclude their subsurface existence.
 - a. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of inadvertently discovered archaeological resources per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5(f) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(f)). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
 - b. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
 - c. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. Health and Safety Code section 7050.5, Public Resources Code section 5097.98, and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5, subdivisions (d) and (e) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5, subds. (d) and (e)) address the processes to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery of any Native American human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: Sharaya.Souza@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Sharaya Souza
Staff Services Analyst
(916) 573-0168

cc: State Clearinghouse

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4

P.O. BOX 23660

OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660

PHONE (510) 286-5528

FAX (510) 286-5559

TTY 711

www.dot.ca.gov

*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

June 5, 2018

SCH# 199092073

04-MRN-2018-00093

GTS ID 10879

Mr. Ernest Klock
Marin Emergency Radio Authority
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 304
San Rafael, CA 94903

Marin Public Safety and Emergency Communication Radio System – Notice of Preparation (NOP)

Dear Mr. Klock:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. In tandem with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), Caltrans mission signals a modernization of our approach to evaluate and mitigate impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN). Caltrans' *Strategic Management Plan 2015-2020* aims to reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) by tripling bicycle and doubling both pedestrian and transit travel by 2020. Our comments are based on the NOP.

Project Understanding

The Applicant, Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA), a joint powers agency proposes to upgrade 10 of the existing active communication sites, decommission five of the sites, and add equipment to eight new sites that were not part of the MERA radio system (system). The new sites include water tanks and well heads sites in northern Marin County. The system is vital for emergency countywide communications between police, firefighters, and public work crews. The 25 project sites are located in various parts of Marin County. Regional access to and from the County of Marin is provided by US 101, State Route (SR) 1, and SR 37, which bisects the County in a south-north direction and Interstate 580 and SR 131, which bisect the County in an east-west direction.

Cultural Resources

If an encroachment permit is needed for work within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW), we may require that cultural resource technical studies be prepared in compliance with CEQA, Public Resources Code (PRC) 5024, and the Caltrans Standard Environmental Reference (SER) Chapter 2 (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/vol2/vol2.htm>). Should ground-disturbing activities take place within Caltrans ROW and there is an inadvertent archaeological or burial discovery, in compliance

Mr.Klock, Marin Emergency Radio Authority
June 5, 2018
Page 2

with CEQA, PRC 5024.5, and the SER, all construction within 60 feet of the find shall cease and the Caltrans District 4 Office of Cultural Resource Studies (OCRS) shall be immediately contacted at (510) 622-1673.

Encroachment Permit

The applicant will be required to apply for and obtain an encroachment permit for any work within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) prior to construction. To apply for an encroachment permit, please complete an encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five (5) sets of plans clearly indicating State ROW, and submit to the following address: David Salladay, District Office Chief, Office of Permits, California Department of Transportation, District 4, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623-0660. Traffic-related mitigation measures should be incorporated into the construction plans prior to the encroachment permit process. See the website link below for more information: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits>. The County of Sonoma/applicant can schedule an encroachment pre-application with Arun Guduguntla at arun.guduguntla@dot.ca.gov.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Stephen Conteh at (510) 286-5534 or stephen.conteh@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



PATRICIA MAURICE
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse

From: MERA-EIR
Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 2:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Your Presentation to City of Mill Valley City Council from June 4, 2018

FYI

Ernest Klock

Assistant Director

Marin County Department of Public Works

3501 Civic Center Dr., San Rafael, CA 94913

Ph: (415) 473-6552 Fax: (415) 473-3724

eklock@marincounty.org

From: aivan@cityofmillvalley.org <aivan@cityofmillvalley.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 9:26 AM
To: MERA-EIR <MERA-EIR@marincounty.org>
Subject: Your Presentation to City of Mill Valley City Council from June 4, 2018

Ann Ivan would like information about:

Hello Mr. Klock,

I work for City of Mill Valley (Code Enforcement) and I have also recently become a HAM KM6QIW and learning all I can about radio. I am also becoming a Southern Marin FD Fire Lookout for Gardner and Dickson lookouts. Would you be able to send me the power point presentation, please? I am very interested in how the topography affects transmissions.

Thank you for all your hard work.

-Ann Ivan 707-230-1583cell or 415-389-4203

Email Disclaimer: <http://www.marincounty.org/main/disclaimers>

Public Comment Regard MERA Project Upgrade

To: mera-eir@marincounty.org

I am a resident of the Novato, Marin Valley Mobile Home Country Club, and a 55+ senior community. This is a City of Novato owned property.

I am a volunteer of this community's Marin Valley Emergency Safety Team (MVEST) and a volunteer of the Marin County CERTS organization

As a CERTS and MVEST volunteer, residents are trained in proper emergency response techniques by local Fire and Police officials. In MVEST, close to 60 resident volunteers are regularly trained in the first response to neighborhood emergencies. An important part of our training is in the use of 2 Way radio communications, currently with business class radios within the Park. I also have an FCC General Class Ham Radio License and am a participating member of ARRL including its ARES, Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Across the United States and its Territories, we have recently experienced many disasters. As an example the last year's Tubbs Fire, currently Hawaii's volcano eruption and Colorado's Fire, to name a few. In many of these disasters, First Responders have been supported by NGOs, from local ARES Ham Radio groups in recovery efforts.

In September 2017, A Grass fire broke out at the perimeter of Marin Valley Mobile Country Club. The fire consumed some 20 acres of hillside around the Park before it was contained by Aerial bombers and the local fire dept. MVEST volunteers were able to coordinate with local Police and fire personnel in a temporary evacuation of approximately 310 residents.

MERA and local governments seem to follow a resistive doctrine of preventing local neighborhood emergency organization such as MVEST to participate as viable partners in the support of first responders. MVEST has been operating for several years and has proven itself to being effective and responsive to residents of Marin Valley Mobile Country Club and not circumventing first responders. Other similar neighborhood groups have experienced the same resistive response from MERA officials, that being Marin Teams, marinteam@mailman.qth.

As a FCC General License holder I understand the responsibility and liabilities of my use of national radio waves. Currently private repeaters offer limited coverage and reception on 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands. Attempts to install private repeaters to cover all of Marin is impossible both logistically and financially. It is in the best interest of all residents of Marin County, who have voted for the MERA project, to have additional means of personal

emergency communications capabilities during long term complete cell phone and landline failures and for emergency disasters.

It is my hope and request that in the planning and the installation of the new MERA system that approval is made for and granted for the installation of repeaters on each site that can be accessed on the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands or better.

Access can be authorized to communities that have developed a well organized group of neighborhood emergency response teams that have been recognized by local Fire Departments. These communities like Marin Valley Mobile Country Club is one of these communities and also has volunteers who have FCC General Licenses and who are well trained in the Protocol and Discipline of radio usage endorsed by local Fire and Police jurisdictions.

Please review and adopt the inclusion of 2meter and 70 centimeter repeater installations on all proposed MERA projected sites.

Cordially;

By: Joseph DeAvila, KK6SCN Date: June 15, 2018

196 Marin Valley Drive

Novato CA 94949

Cc: Novato City Council

Cc: Marc Levine

Cc: arodriguez@marinij.com

From: MERA-EIR
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 2:20 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] FW: MERA NEXT GENERATION SYSTEM SUMMARY Comments

FYI

Ernest Klock

Assistant Director

Marin County Department of Public Works

3501 Civic Center Dr., San Rafael, CA 94913

Ph: (415) 473-6552 Fax: (415) 473-3724

eklock@marincounty.org

From: MERA-EIR
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 4:54 PM
To: smforsman <smforsman@gmail.com>; MERA-EIR <MERA-EIR@marincounty.org>
Subject: RE: MERA NEXT GENERATION SYSTEM SUMMARY Comments

Thanks for your comments Misty. Some of the answers to your questions were in my presentation on May 31 (I think you may have missed some/all of it). In short, voters approved Measure A in 2014 providing funding for the Next Gen System...

<https://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/board-actions-meetings/2014/july/july-22/mera>

We are required (by the FCC) to vacate the T-band spectrum frequencies used for the existing system and move to the 700 MHz band of frequencies in the next several years. The equipment needs to be changed. This is a public safety communication system used primarily by Fire/Law, but MERA has 25 member agencies...

<http://meraonline.org/>

The general public cannot use this system, but benefits greatly from timely emergency response.

I don't think there's any danger at all from the proposed equipment. The FCC has strict rules about exclusionary fencing to keep people away from potential harm and 700 MHz systems have been in use extensively throughout the State for some time. I've not heard of any ill effects.

We will be giving a presentation about the Skyview proposed tower in mid-July to the Marinwood neighborhoods. I suspect all your questions will be answered if you attend and I will keep all these in mind when generating the presentation. I will let you know when it's scheduled.

Sincerely,

Ernest Klock

Assistant Director

Marin County Department of Public Works

3501 Civic Center Dr., San Rafael, CA 94913

Ph: (415) 473-6552 Fax: (415) 473-3724

eklock@marincounty.org

From: smforsman <smforsman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 4:15 PM
To: MERA-EIR <MERAEIR@marincounty.org>
Subject: MERA NEXT GENERATION SYSTEM SUMMARY Comments

TO: Ernest Klock, MERA Operations Director
FROM: MISTY FORSMAN
51 Skyview Terrace, San Rafael, CA 94903
smforsman@gmail.com
415-686-4150
RE: MERA Comments

Dear Mr. Klock,

Here are some questions and comments regarding this project which I did not see in the materials available online. If you addressed these at the meeting I attended, I apologize that I missed them.

The following are some questions I have that I would appreciate being addressed in subsequent Public Information:

1. Why this particular plan? It is unclear why this particular plan was developed although it does appear to be well-thought out.
2. Why now? Is there a particular event, or set of events, that contribute to the precise timing of this system?
3. How will the public interact with the MERA system – or will they? How does the public get information about events happening throughout the county?
4. The term “radio” is in the language description; does that imply that having a radio is necessary and/or important to residents? What about visitors?
5. Safety – what are the dangers of the equipment, and from the equipment, proposed in this plan...health wise, and are there any other safety impacts? Are the areas next to and near installations safe? Is there danger from electromagnetic energy or radio or other energy signals?
6. While this is called the “Marin...” plan, does it benefit and impact other counties?
7. Regarding the financing of this plan, please advise regarding the source of funding. Is this financed by Marin homeowners through taxes? Do renters also contribute? Is there a bond issue? Do other counties who might be beneficiaries of the MERA system contribute financially – or contribute in other ways?
8. The information available [MERA NEXT GENERATION SYSTEM - SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION IN ADVANCE OF CEQA - SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (SEIR)] mentions that the project is “expected to operate for 20 years.” With advances in technology coming to market in shorter and shorter cycles, this seems like an unrealistic time frame. Please comment on this concern.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Misty Forsman

