



# **East Bay Regional Communications System Authority**



Participating agencies include Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and the following cities and special districts: Alameda, Albany, Antioch, Berkeley, Brentwood, Clayton, Concord, Danville, Dublin, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Hercules, Lafayette, Livermore, Martinez, Moraga, Newark, Oakley, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Pleasanton, Richmond, San Leandro, San Pablo, San Ramon, Union City, Walnut Creek, East Bay Regional Park District, Kensington Police Community Services District, Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Rodeo-Hercules Fire District, San Ramon Valley Fire District, California Department of Transportation, Ohlone Community College District, Contra Costa Community College District, Dublin-San Ramon Services District and University of California, Berkeley

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**DATE: February 16, 2024**

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Alameda County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services,  
Room 1013  
4985 Broder Blvd., Dublin, CA 94568

## **MINUTES**

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1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** A regular meeting of the Operations Committee was held on Friday, February 16, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **Committee Members Present:**

A. Love, Chief, Oakland Housing Authority Police  
J. Beltran, Assistant Sheriff, Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff  
E. Christy, Assistant Sheriff, Alameda County Sheriff's Office  
J. King, Chief, Moraga Police Department  
M. Nichelini, Deputy Chief, Oakland Fire Department  
Y. Sanchez, Sheriff, Alameda County Sheriff's Office

### **Staff:**

T. McCarthy, Executive Director  
C. Boyer, Auditor  
C. Soto, Administrative Assistant

2. **Public Comments:** None.
3. **Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2023, Operations Committee Meeting**

On motion of Bm. King, seconded by Bm. Nichelini and by unanimous vote, the Operations Committee approved the minutes of the November 17, 2023 Operations Committee meeting.

4. **BART Master License Agreement Amendment No. 2 and West Walnut Creek Site License**

Executive Director McCarthy stated BART informed him they were going to put cellular antennas on the towers at BART and this raised the question of who owned the towers.

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In 2010, Supervisor Mitchoff and Executive Director McCammon agreed to build three towers for BART; one in Walnut Creek, one in East Dublin and one in Warm Springs. All three were built by EBRCSA and listed under a master license agreement to be the property of BART but the paperwork was never completed. EBRCSA and BART have spent the last several months trying to verify this. They found signed copies of a master license agreement but they had to do site agreements for each one of the three sites. The paper work has now been cleaned up to show BART ownership. In regard to BART wanting to put cellular antennas on the towers, cellular does not go well with radio on the tower. BART's real estate department has entered into an agreement with Dish Network to utilize BART's towers. EBRCSA had to force BART to provide information to determine if it is going to cause interference with EBRCSA's radio sites. If there are any problems, the Executive Director will go to the FCC. This site license agreement now puts all the paperwork in order regarding ownership of towers by BART, with the agreement that there is to be no interference with EBRCSA communications.

On motion of Bm. King, seconded by Bm. Christy and by unanimous vote, the Operations Committee agreed to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the proposed Resolution to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Master License Agreement ("Amendment No. 2") between the Authority and San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District ("BART") and the West Walnut Creek Site License ("Site License").

#### **5. Radio Interoperability EBRCSA MOU**

Executive Director McCarthy stated Fremont, Milpitas and Menlo Park have autoaid where fire departments can back each other up when they vacate a station or have to go on a call. This allows the agencies to share radio channels. They already have the channels and there is no cost involved.

On motion of Bm. King, seconded by Bm. Nichelini and by unanimous vote, the Operations Committee agreed to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Cities of Milpitas, Menlo Park, Fremont, and East Bay Regional Communications System Authority regarding Radio Interoperability (EBRCSA).

#### **6. Aviat Professional Services Agreement**

Executive Director McCarthy stated EBRCSA has had an agreement with Aviat which has since expired. This agreement includes advance part replacement that allows you have items in your shop that can be used as replacement parts. If one is damaged and a new one used, the damaged one is then sent back to Aviat and Aviat returns a new one or a repaired part. The agreement was not renewed with Aviat while Aviat was replacing parts that were under warranty. The acceptance of the microwave system has been tied with the start of the AVIAT contract. Contra Costa County cost is flat because it rebuilt its system. Aviat is comfortable with the agreement as they know what is in the new system, so the risk factor was taken away and reflected in the cost.

On motion of Bm. King, seconded by Bm. Nichelini and by unanimous vote, the Operations Committee agreed to recommend to the full Board to enter into an agreement with Aviat Care for Services & Support, with the correction of "District" to "Authority" on page 9 of 16 of the agreement.

## 7. Updates on East Bay Regional Commination System Projects

- Encryption

Executive Director McCarthy stated he met with ETS to start discussing encryption. Captain Miguel Ibarra who is going to work on encryption for the Sheriff's Office because the process is big with all the divisions, including the jail. That opened it up to Oakland Housing Authority now that Oakland is coming on. You will have to get Piedmont, Alameda, Berkeley and all the others involved whether or not they are ready. What is happening is that you are creating the code plug as to what the agency wants to have encrypted and then they will load it into the radios as being encrypted. Once you encrypt a talk group, you cannot go back to unencrypted on that talk group. It locks it in. You lock that talk group. They were hoping to have an unencrypted channel at the beginning of the radio, or until they were closer and ready to go, and then have it also on the back side. You cannot. It does not give you an option of having a talk group encrypted and unencrypted at the same time. Once the talk group gets encrypted, there is no other bank to go two because you cannot put the two talk groups in; they conflict with the frequencies. They are going to have to train the departments that once you become encrypted, if you need to speak to another agency, you have to go to interops, ALCO Law 123, CoCo Law 123, EB Law 123. Channel 4 is ADP encrypted. That is not open. Not everyone has ADP. The new law 5 for all three will be AES encryption.

10:30 a.m. Bm. Sanchez arrived.

- Microwave/Ethernet/MPLS Project Update

Executive Director McCarthy stated they were wrapping up the Ethernet/microwave project. OHA is the last install. It should be done this coming week.

- The City of Antioch Site on Walton Lane

EBRCSA has been working with Antioch for five years on the Walton Lane site. Antioch has let its lease expire on their tower, they lease the land to American Tower. The Executive Director is now working with American Tower to try to get American Tower back on the land to give EBRCSA space on the tower. They have space in their shelters to accommodate EBRCSA.

- Wiedemann Project San Ramon

This is the new site that was built by the developer. The generator needs to get fixed. Hopefully, it will take care of a dead area in San Ramon.

- Update Search for Executive Director Position

Interviews for the Executive Director position were held last Tuesday.

- Central Cell Outage February 5, 2024

Executive Director McCarthy stated EBRCSA had an outage on February 5, 2024. PG&E went down and took out Central Contra Costa County. When PG&E went down, it knocked out the generator and a cell in the battery system for the microwave. The generator burned and destroyed the automatic transfer switch. Once checked, it was discovered it was the automatic transfer switch. The battery for the generator blew one of the cells out breaking the connectivity. They had batteries for the microwave that were going to go into the Pearl site and used those to get the microwave back up. He is recommending to install a shore power connection to plug it in and ramp it up. Contra Costa County Fire Chief requested EBRCSA call every customer when they have an outage. No one in the Contra Costa County called their communications chief or fire chief. They go to the site and get it working. They have site trunking. When the system fails to transmit out, a red "X" and an alarm comes up on the panel telling them they are down. They had training on it and maintained it. With turnover, people may not be aware of it so he is going to make it a topic of training with members of the TAC Committee.

Bm. King asked they lost Cumming Skyway site and it broke the loop, was it supposed to go back around. By losing the site, why didn't it go to the repeater site and have it running it with the repeater, why did it not happen this time?

Executive Director McCarthy stated he did not have enough information yet to answer that question. He wants to know did they go to their back up control radios. He needs Contra Costa County radio shop to find out how everyone reverted back and was there any failure in reverting back. Part of the issue is that they may all be up, but your radio may not allow association with another site. The master site did not go off line because it reversed its direction. All radios associate with a primary site but if something else goes down or does not pick up then what happens. He does not know how Randy has that set up in Contra Costa County so they need to have a conversation before he brings a full report.

Bm. King stated there was a lot of misconception about what happened and some were faulting EBRCSA. It was a catastrophic failure. What they need to do is get some type of communication out to the agencies that this is what happened, we are in the investigative process, these are the steps we are taking.

Bm. Shorr stated he instructed his radio shop to provide a detailed after-action report on the outage and will get it to the Executive Director once it is completed. It will also go to County Administrator Nino.

When PG&E power goes off, it sounds like it was a surge. The System kept the equipment from going down.

Bm. Shorr stated Contra Costa County is going to put increased monitoring at each one of its sites to get better notification if something goes wrong.

8. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Contra Costa County MOU
- After Action Report on February 5, 2024 Central Cell Outage

9. **Adjournment:** With no further business coming before the Operations Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.



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Caroline P. Soto  
Authority Secretary