



**San Diego County – Imperial County
Regional Communications System**

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NEXTGEN RCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, July 8, 2020 1:00 PM

5500 OVERLAND AVE., ROOM 120
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123

RCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency, the County of San Diego has made several changes to public meetings to protect the public's health and prevent the disease from spreading. Per the Governor's executive order to stay home, in person participation at Board of Directors meetings is not allowed at this time. You may participate in the meetings via teleconference instead of attending in person. Please see the link below:

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 619-535-0693](#) United States, San Diego (Toll) Conference ID: 294 385 434#

Executive Order N-25-20 requires agencies holding meetings via teleconference to designate a publicly accessible location from which members of the public may observe and provide public comment. Although members of the public are encouraged to participate via teleconference, RCS has designated the following physical location for public participation:

County Operations Center - 5500 Overland Ave., Room 120, San Diego, CA 92123

Members of the public planning to participate the meeting in this location are required to wear masks and to follow social distancing protocol.

WRITINGS DISTRIBUTED TO THE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Government Code 54957.5, written materials distributed to the Board of Directors in connection with this agenda will be available to the public at the County Operations Center, Sheriff's Wireless Services Division Office, Suite 101, 5595 Overland Ave., San Diego, California 92123. In addition, Supporting documentation (including attachments referenced in the agenda) is available for viewing on the [RCS web site](#).

AGENDA

1. Call to Order (Chief Jim Lydon, Chair)
2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum (Chair)
3. Purpose of Meeting (Chair)
4. Approval of Minutes (February 5, 2020) (Chair)
5. Public Comment (limited to three minutes per speaker) (Chair)
6. Revenue/Billing Update (January 2020 – June 2020) (Gayda Pia)

NextGen RCS Board of Directors

SAN DIEGO COUNTY - IMPERIAL COUNTY

*Chief Jim Lydon, Coronado Fire Department (Chair) – Graham Mitchell, City Manager, City of El Cajon (Vice Chair)
Commander Theresa Adams-Hydar, San Diego County Sheriff's Department – Jeff Toney, OES, County of San Diego
Chief Jose Tellez, National City Police Department - Chief Michael Calderwood, Carlsbad Fire Department
Ernesto Fermin, Caltrans – Chief Alfredo Estrada Jr., IVECA - Chief Brian Johnson, IVECA*

- 6.1 Network Operating Cost (NOC) Billing and Revenue
- 6.2 Trust Fund Balance
- 7. Network Operations Update (Don Root)
 - 7.1 Monthly Reports (January 2020 – June 2020)
- 8. Administrative Update
 - 8.1 Grants Update (Dave Brooks)
 - 8.2 Training Update (Elissa Dorame)
- 9. Major Projects Update (Brooks/Hazlett/Schmidt/Root)
 - 9.1 RCS Site Projects Status (Dave Brooks)
 - 9.2 NextGen RCS Project Status (Dave Hazlett)
 - 9.3 IVECA Projects (Mark Schmidt)
 - 9.4 800 MHz Rebanding (Don Root)
 - 9.5 First Net (Dave Brooks)
- 10. Consent Agenda (Chair)
 - 10.1 Request the RCS Board approve new RCS Customer Agreement for Symbiosis Care.

Staff background/ recommendation: County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services (EMS) requires all new ambulance agencies to acquire radios operated by RCS. Each ambulance agency needs to enter into a customer agreement with RCS in order to use RCS services. The NextGen RCS Agreement provides that the NextGen BOD will "make recommendations concerning the approval of customer contracts and rates for NextGen RCS services". Staff recommends approval.
 - 10.2 Request the RCS Board approve new RCS Customer Agreement for Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Camp Pendleton Ambulance Services.

Staff background/ recommendation: County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services (EMS) requires all new ambulance agencies to acquire radios operated by RCS. Each ambulance agency needs to enter into a customer agreement with RCS in order to use RCS services. The NextGen RCS Agreement provides that the NextGen BOD will "make recommendations concerning the approval of customer contracts and rates for NextGen RCS services". Staff recommends approval.
 - 10.3 Request the RCS Board approve new RCS Customer Agreement for Rainbow Municipal Water District for twenty-five radios on the RCS.

Staff background/ recommendation: Rainbow Municipal Water District is requesting to become a customer with a maximum limit of twenty-five radios to the RCS. Upon approval, based on twenty-five radios, this will bring estimated annual customer revenue of \$23,121. Staff recommends approval.

- 10.4 Request the RCS Board approve U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Police to increase their radio limit from 60 to 85 radios.

Staff background/ recommendation: The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Police is an existing customer with 60 radios under the agreement. VA requests to add up to 25 radios to meet their current and future needs. Staff recommends approval.

- 10.5 Request the RCS Board approve the La Jolla Reservation Fire Tribal to increase their radio limit to 25 radios for mutual aid use.

Staff background/ recommendation: La Jolla Reservation Fire Tribal was approved as a Mutual Aid user in 2009 with 15 radios. This is to update the Mutual Aid Agreement and to increase the maximum radio limit to 25. Staff recommends approval.

- 10.6 Request the RCS Board approve a Mutual Aid Agreement for Campo Reservation Fire.

Staff background/ recommendation: Camp Reservation Fire is an existing RCS Mutual Aid agency with 15 radios. This is to update the Mutual Aid Agreement and to increase the maximum radio limit to 25. Staff recommends approval.

- 10.7 Request the RCS Board approve the Santa Ysabel Tribal Fire to increase their radio limit to 15 radios for mutual aid use.

Staff background/ recommendation: Santa Ysabel Tribal Fire was approved as a Mutual Aid user in 2009 with 5 radios. This is to update the Mutual Aid Agreement and to increase the maximum radio limit to 15. Staff recommends approval.

- 10.8 Request the RCS Board approve US Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations Directorate (HSI) to increase their radio limit from 15 radios to 30 radios for mutual aid use.

Staff background/ recommendation: HSI was approved as a Mutual Aid user in 2017 with 15 radios. This item is to update the Mutual Aid Agreement and to increase the maximum radio limit to 30. Staff recommends approval.

- 10.9 Request the RCS Board approve a Mutual Aid Agreement for Rural Fire Metro Fire Department – Yuma County for 48 radios.

Staff background/ recommendation: Rural Metro Fire Department in Yuma County is a member of the Yuma Regional Communications System (YRCS) and is frequently called to assist with medical and fire incidents within Imperial County. However, Rural Metro Fire is unable to communicate with Imperial County and is requesting to add the IVECA Mutual Aid talkgroups /fleetmap to 48 mutual aid radios. These radios will be used for mutual aid assignments in Imperial County exclusively. IVECA Board has approved Rural Metro Fire Department's request to be added as an IVECA RCS Mutual Aid user on February 27, 2020 IVECA Board meeting. Staff

recommends approval.

11. Main Agenda

(Chair)

- 11.1 Request the RCS Board to approve the addition of L3Harris as a new provider for subscriber radios.

Staff background: With the implementation of a P25 Standards radio network, RCS agencies are no longer limited in their selection of subscriber radio equipment. L3Harris has requested that their Harris XL-200 series of mobile and portable radios be approved as an RCS recognized subscriber unit.

RCS Subscriber Staff has been evaluating these units in the field with an RCS agency for about 8 months. During this testing and evaluation period, the following observations were made:

- The operation of the Harris radios is generally compliant with the RCS network.
- The Harris radio design does **not** support the RCS' "REWARD" operation for missing radios. Any Harris radio reported to the RCS as Lost or Stolen will have to be totally shut-off in **each** trunked network programmed into the radio.
- The Harris radio does **not** support the HOME button capability that RCS users are familiar with.
- All text on the displays of the Harris radio is in UPPER CASE only.
- Current radios on the RCS Network provide one SCAN list for each trunked system installed, plus one SCAN list for conventional channels. Scanning across systems / conventional is not possible. Harris' SCAN feature allows 'mixing' of systems and channels. This means a user with a 'mixed' system scan list has the **potential to miss a radio call** while scanning, due to the radio de-affiliating from the RCS network while scanning non-RCS modes, affiliating with another trunked network (City of SD or YRCS), de-affiliating with the other network, scanning conventional channel, then re-affiliating with the RCS network. During the period the radio is de-affiliated from the RCS, there is no communications between the field unit and the dispatcher or other RCS users. **This is a potential first responder safety issue.**
- A Harris radio not programmed for EMER button operation will still cause the RCS network to hold a channel for 20-30 seconds when pushed.
- Approval of the Harris XL-200 Radio Series on the RCS will result in one-time start-up costs to the RCS of an estimated \$50,000 for
 - Programming & service software
 - Programming technician training
 - Technician test fixtures and cables
 - The development of an RCS User training module for this radio and integration into the RCS Training Program. All RCS public safety users will need to be instructed in the basics of the radio operation in order to maintain

user familiarity in emergency conditions.

In addition, staff estimates there will be an ongoing annual expense of \$10,000 to support ongoing RCS User and Technician training, and any software licensing subscriptions.

- Under the NextGen Partnership Agreement, any RCS agency desiring to place these radios into service on the RCS and utilize the Over The Air radio Programming (OTAP) or Over The Air encryption rekeying (OTAR) features will need to fund any Harris-specific infrastructure and installation services required to support OTAP or OTAR as a part of their initial purchase. The RCS Board would have to determine if any support & ongoing software services expense to support these interfaces would become an RCS Network support expense or be borne by the agency procuring the interfaces

Staff Recommendation:

1. *Staff recommends approval, with the understanding that the Harris XL-200 series radios do not operate in the manner that current radios on the RCS network operate, and the introduction of the Harris XL-200 series radios will create added expense to the RCS through increased programming and training costs.*
2. *Staff recommends the RCS Board require that the personnel of any agency implementing the Harris XL-200 series radios complete the applicable updated RCS Training Course(s) to ensure that field personnel have been made aware of the operational differences between the Harris products and non-Harris products within 6 months of introduction into the radio fleet.*

12. Roundtable

(Chair)

13. Conclude

(Chair)

**Next Meeting Date:
Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM
5500 Overland Ave., Room 120, San Diego, CA 92123**