



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

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## **NEXTGEN RCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

SAN DIEGO COUNTY – IMPERIAL COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021 1:00 p.m.**

COUNTY OPERATIONS CENTER  
5500 OVERLAND AVENUE, ROOM 120  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123

Virtual teleconference held via Microsoft Teams due to COVID-19 public health emergency restrictions.

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Directors Jim Lydon, Chair; Graham Mitchell; Theresa Adams-Hydar; Jose Tellez; Stephen Rea; Ernie Fermin; Dan Barron; Alfredo Estrada Jr.; Brian Johnson; Mike Calderwood

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum - The following Directors were in attendance and a quorum was established:

Chief Jim Lydon, San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association

Mr. Graham Mitchell, City of El Cajon/County Manager's Association

Commander Theresa Adams-Hydar, San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Chief Jose Tellez, San Diego Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association

Mr. Stephen Rea, OES, County of San Diego

Mr. Ernesto Fermin, Caltrans

Chief Dan Barron, San Diego Fire Chiefs' Association

Chief Alfredo Estrada Jr., Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority (IVECA)

Note: Chief Brian Johnson, Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority (IVECA), joined meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Note: Chief Michael Calderwood, San Diego Fire Chiefs' Association, joined meeting at 1:20 p.m.

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*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., Imperial County Fire Dept. Chief, O.E.S Coordinator, IVECA – Chief Brian Johnson, El Centro Police Department Chief, IVECA*

2. Welcome and Introduction - Chief Lydon welcomed the group.
3. Purpose of the meeting is to conduct the business of the NextGen RCS Board of Directors.
4. Approval of the NextGen RCS Board of Directors' Minutes for the Meeting of February 10, 2021.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Mr. Graham Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Stephen Rea, the Board of Directors approved the Minutes for the Meeting of February 10, 2021.

AYES: Directors Jim Lydon, Chair; Theresa Adams-Hydar; Alfredo Estrada, Jr.; Jose Tellez; Ernie Fermin; Graham Mitchell; Dan Barron; Stephen Rea

5. Public Comments - There were no public comments.
6. Revenue/ Billing Update (February 2021 - April 2021)

6.1 Network Operating Cost (NOC) Billing and Revenue - See attachment

6.2 Trust Fund Balance - See attachment

7. Network Operations Update

7.1 Monthly Reports (January 2021– April 2021) –Mr. Brooks reported the following updates:

January 2021: 3.8 million call setups with 48 busies. No incidents to report. Busies occurred at 3 Imperial Astro Site Repeater (ASR) sites, 43 busies at Hendrix Peak, 3 busies at Calexico and 1 busy at Black Mountain serving Imperial County.

February 2021: 3.5 million call setups with 35 busies. No incidents to report. Busies occurred on two Imperial County ASR sites, 25 busies at Hendrix Peak and 10 busies at Calexico

March 2021: 3.9 million call setups with 46 busies. No incidents to report. Busies occurred on two Imperial County ASR sites, 38 busies at Hendrix Peak, 8 busies at Calexico.

April 2021: 3.9 million call setups with 67 busies. No incidents to report. Busies include 2 in the San Diego West simulcast cell, 1 busy at Rams Hill, San Diego ASR; 9 busies at Calexico and 55 busies at Hendrix Peak on the Imperial County ASR.

No major incidents to report this past quarter.

*Discussion: Mr. Stephen Rea inquired if there is a trend to the busies in Imperial County and if they are due to a certain event or if it's a random occurrence. Mr. Brooks confirmed that the RCS is performing above the required levels within the RCS and there is no major impact to the Imperial County agencies.*

## 8. Administrative Update

8.1 Grants Update – Mr. Brooks reported the following updates:

Currently, RCS has no pending grant funding requested or active grants.

Wireless Services Division (WSD) and County of San Diego are working with local fire agencies on a 2021-2022 UASI grant funding that will implement GPS functionality into the NextGen system.

8.2 Training Update – Ms. Dorame reported the following training updates:

As the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 comes to an end, five field classes, one console site class and three hands-on fleetmap webinars, with a total of 94 participants trained, were completed. As state COVID-19 mandates loosen, there will be increased training sessions available.

Additional program updates: RCS website development is in progress and waiting for a quote from the vendor, Granicus. All training materials are updated and the pilot for a full webinar class on Microsoft TEAMS platform is expected soon. Trainer Fleetmap is also being updated to include encryption, and there will be new training materials for the new Harris radios.

## 9. Major Projects Update

9.1 RCS Site Projects Status - Mr. Brooks reported the following updates for the 2020/2021 projects:

Generator Replacement Project: The generator replacements project is ongoing. Currently three generators were delivered in December for the FY 2019/2020 at the Volcan North, Emory and Lyons communications facilities. The Volcan North generator was shipped back to the vendor due to damages when the generator was being delivered. The Emory and Lyons generators are scheduled for install this fiscal year. The Department of General Services (DGS) is working with the vendor for this installation. Spending plans for DGS is pending for three generators for FY 2020/2021. A total of six generators in the pipeline for replacement. Currently, there are no issues with the generators that are 15 years old, but all will be replaced based on age and not due to failure.

In conjunction with generator replacement, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) units are being replaced systematically. This fiscal year, replacements at the Palomar and Sierra Rojo RCS sites will be completed upon the solicitation of bids process sent to

Department of Purchasing and Contracting (DPC) for release on BuyNet. HVAC system replacements are on schedule.

Lock Replacement – Wireless Services Division is replacing the combination locks at all RCS sites with key locks due to security purposes following the completion of the NextGen site work. Lock replacement continues and all authorized agencies for these sites will receive keys for site access.

48 Volt Battery Replacement Project: The replacement of the emergency backup of the 48V DC battery strings that provide power for the RCS microwave equipment, in the event of a power failure where power is interrupted and the site generator fails, is ongoing. The selected vendor has completed the first of the three rounds of battery replacements and the second-round sites replacement has begun with completion this fiscal year and on schedule. The third and final round which include 12 remaining sites will continue in the next fiscal year.

Site Relocation Project – Site relocation has been completed at Red Mountain. The ATC site has been vacated and staff are working with County of San Diego's Real Estate Division to terminate this lease. All equipment has been moved to the more spacious CalFire facility. A reduction in RCS lease costs will be seen in the coming years due to this site relocation. Relocation is also occurring at San Ysidro and at Black Mountain sites.

9.2 NextGen RCS Project Status – Mr. Santiesteban reported the following updates:

Project Milestones: The Black Mountain radio site kick-off meeting and on-site walk-through was completed with this project continuing to move forward. The Pala and San Ysidro tower, shelter and generator are completed. The installation of the equipment and electrical for these two sites is being finalized. The Red Mountain site generator is installed and pending certificate to operate prior to final testing and completion.

The subscriber reprogramming change order continues to move forward. This is the removal of the legacy analog smartzone talk group and configuration from all subscriber radios. Currently 5,863 portable radios and 2,465 mobile radios have been completed to date. RCS is coordinating with San Diego Gas & Electric (SDGE) for electrical interface for the Pala and San Ysidro sites. Review of the NextGen coverage gaps in the Lawrence Welk area and available solutions with Motorola is in progress.

Future plans include the completion of the remaining activities for Pala and San Ysidro sites with expected completion date by end of June. Motorola will provide a timeline and schedule for the Black Mountain site.

Phase 3: Current balance for the Phase 3 project is \$1.16M, contingency balance of \$863K, for an overall project balance total of \$2M.

9.3 IVECA Projects- Mr. Schmidt reported that the planned maintenance on all nine IVECA emergency back-up generators have been completed with no major issues. Seasonal planned maintenance on IVECA's 20 air conditioning units is ongoing with completion expected end of May 2021. The IVECA Board voted to contract with Consultant Mission Critical Partners for the development of a public safety answering point and a full plan presentation is expected by late summer 2021 to the IVECA Board.

9.4 FirstNet – Mr. Brooks reported that the Sheriff's Wireless Services Division (WSD) and Data Services Division (DSD) held a meeting with AT&T/First Net, where AT&T/First Net has received approval from their leadership team to provide demo equipment for WSD/DSD to test the interface of the Vocality LTE LMR to the RCS. Although no trial start date was set, pilot testing of the First Net interface is expected to begin soon and an update will be provided on the next RCS Board meeting.

## 10. Consent Agenda

10.1 Request the RCS Board approve a Customer Agreement with Equinox Gold Corp., Western Mesquite Mines, Inc. for up to 10 radios.

10.2 Request the RCS Board approve Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) to increase radio limit from 170 to 245 radios.

ON MOTION of Commander Adams-Hydar, seconded by Chief Tellez, the Board of Directors approved the Consent Agenda items.

AYES: Directors Jim Lydon, Chair; Theresa Adams-Hydar; Alfredo Estrada, Jr.; Jose Tellez; Ernie Fermin; Stephen Rea; Graham Mitchell; Dan Barron; Brian Johnson; Mike Calderwood

## 11. Main Agenda

11.1 RCS system performance was presented by Mr. Brooks (*See attached*).

*Discussion: Chief Lydon inquired about the number of transmissions during the Lilac Fire in comparison between then vs. now and that number of transmissions seem relatively the same. Interested if the amount of traffic was more pronounced on the VHF system during this time. Mr. Brooks explained that all call counts remain consistent during a natural disaster event and having the VHF system is a great resource as an alternative path with the conventional channels to be used by the fire agencies.*

11.2 Request the RCS Board discuss and approve resuming in person board meeting starting July at meeting location: 5500 Overland Ave. Rm. 120, San Diego, CA 92123.

*Chief Lydon addressed the RCS Board stating there is enough consensus among the Board Members to resume meeting in person and no motion is required. All board members agreed.*

12. Roundtable

No roundtable discussion.

13. End of Meeting - The meeting ended at 1:52 p.m.

**Next Board of Directors Meeting is on Wednesday, July14, at 1:00 p.m.**

County Operations Center  
5500 Overland Avenue, Room 120, San Diego, CA 92123

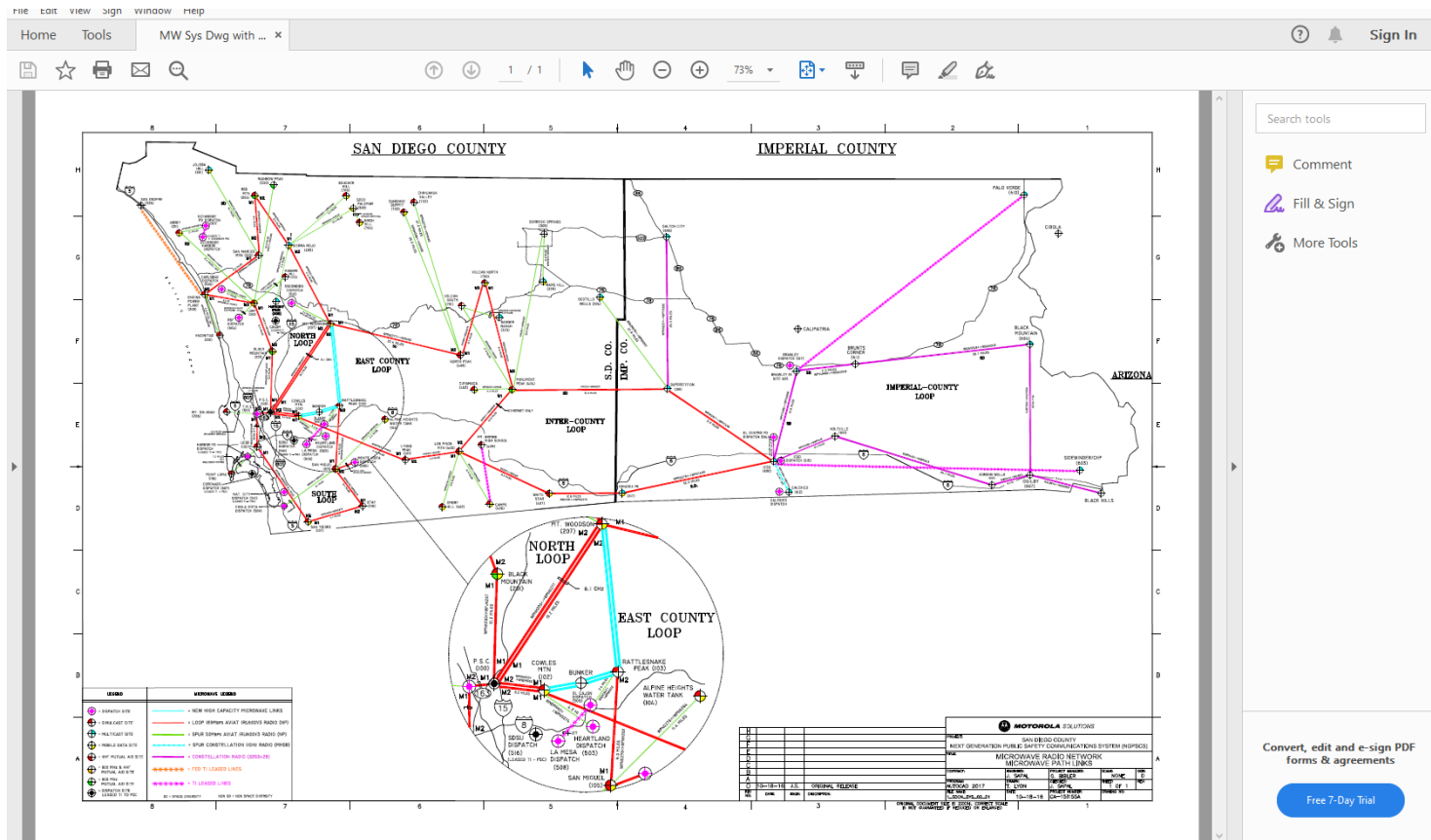
# Regional Communications System Performance Update 2021



RCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING

Wireless Services Division

May 12, 2021



- Covers San Diego County and Imperial County
- Over 9,000+ mi<sup>2</sup>
- Serving a population of 3.5M
- 52 Communications Facilities
- 120 Microwave Links
- Over 200 agencies
- 16 PSAPs
- 18000+ System Users
- 3000+ Mutual Aid Radio

# RCS Communications Network



# RCS System Performance 2016-2020

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## RCS System Wide

- Call Counts

- 2016 43,564,231
- 2017 42,399,992
- 2018 40,006,795
- 2019 42,452,374
- 2020 40,678,035





# RCS System Performance 2016-2020

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## RCS System Airtime

- Airtime
  - 2016 129,000 hours
  - 2017 126,000 hours
  - 2018 120,000 hours
  - 2019 126,000 hours
  - 2020 122,000 hours

# RCS System Performance 2016-2020

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## RCS System Busies

- Busies
  - 2016      1509 busies
  - 2017      3455 busies
  - 2018      4906 busies
  - 2019      24249 busies
  - 2020      4620 busies



# RCS System Performance 2016-2020 Busy Expanded

Busies					
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Jan	3400	42	40	1692	203
Feb	1033	133	34	235	78
March	10	52	255	518	132
April	2	174	55	61	55
May	7	36	28	75	74
June	5	45	69	57	433
July	27	81	167	63	137
August	4	227	3822	116	129
Sep	10	2700	84	85	94
Oct	49	9091	158	61	103
Nov	34	9376	165	87	33
Dec	39	2292	29	405	38
	4620	24249	4906	3455	1509



# RCS System Performance Dec 2017 vs. 2020

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## RCS Performance

Year	Total Calls	Busies	Grade of Service
• 2016	43,564,231	1509	.003%
• 2017	42,399,992	3455	.008%
• 2018	40,006,795	4906	.012%
• 2019	42,452,374	24249	.057%
• 2020	40,678,035	4620	.011%

## NextGen May 2020-April 2021

• 20/21	43,609,286	371	.0009%
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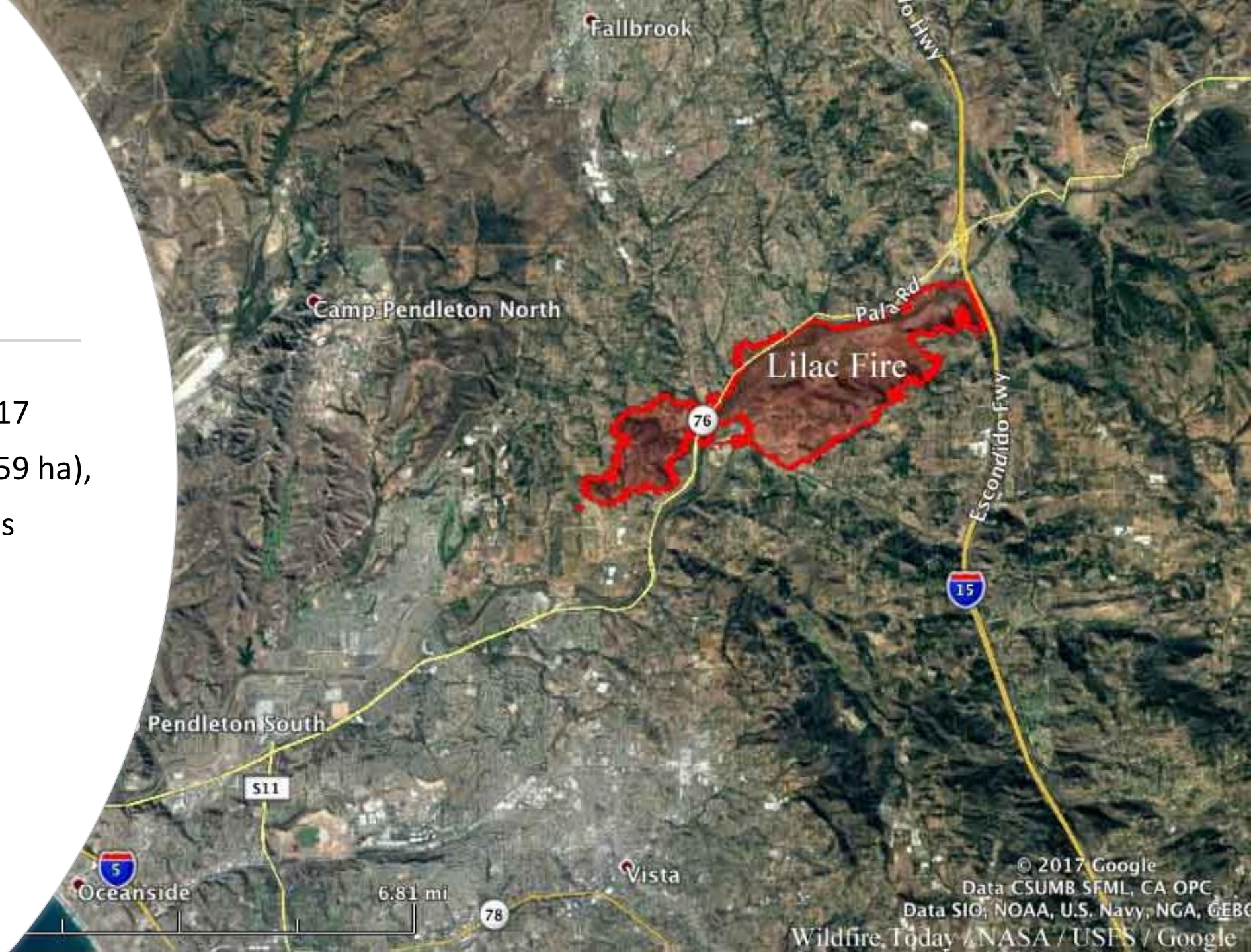


# System Performance Example

- Lilac Fire Dec 7-16, 2017

# Lilac Fire

- Started December 7, 2017
- Burned 4,100 acres (1,659 ha),
- Destroyed 157 structures
- Was fully contained on December 16, 2017.





# Lilac Fire System Performance Dec 7-16, 2017

## **RCS System Wide**

- RCS System Wide
- Calls 1,250,727
- Airtime 3681h 25m 50s
- 382 Busies
- Busy time 12m 39s
- Average busy 1.99s

## **North Simulicast**

- Calls 334,244
- Airtime 1006h 31m 25s
- 209 Busies
- Busy time 3m 16s
- Average busy .94s





# Lilac Fire System Performance

## Dec 7-16, 2017

### **North Simulicast**

- Calls 334,244
- Airtime 1006h 31m 25s
- 209 Buses
- Busy time 3m 16s
- Average busy .94s

### **Sierra Rojo (ASR)**

- Calls 55,574
- Airtime 166h 48m 39s
- 170 Buses
- Busy time 9m 21s
- Average busy 3.30s



## RCS System Performance Dec 2017 vs. 2020

### RCS System Wide Dec 2017

- Calls 3,447,439
- Airtime 10279h 34m 53s
- Busies 405
- Busy time 13m 25s
- Average busy 1.9s

### RCS System Wide Dec 2020

- Calls 3,684,687
- Airtime 11161h 46m 58s
- Busies 39
- Busy time 1m 22s
- Average busy 2.1s



# NextGen Regional Communications System



## Black Mountain Communications Facility

- Communications tower supporting multiple agencies including City of San Diego, County, RCS, State and Federal agencies

# Power Backup

- All critical sites have backup generator power with a minimum of seven days of fuel at full load





## 48V Battery Power System

- 20 Channel P25 Simulcast System

# Questions

Technology Services  
Wireless Services Division  
Regional Communications System

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