



**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, February 14, 2024 1:00 p.m.**

**SHERIFF'S CRIME LAB, 5590 OVERLAND AVE., ROOM 101  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123**

Meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

PRESENT: Directors Graham Mitchell; Ricardo Lopez; Brian Boggeln; Stephen Rea; Jason Akbari; Jeff Chumbley

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Mr. Graham Mitchell, San Diego City/County Managers Association (Chair)  
Chief Brian Boggeln, San Diego Fire Chief's Association  
Commander Ricardo Lopez, San Diego County Sheriff's Department  
Mr. Stephen Rea, OES, County of San Diego  
Mr. Jason Akbari, Caltrans  
Chief Jeff Chumbley, San Diego Fire Chief's Association

2. Welcome and Introduction – Mr. Graham Mitchell welcomed the group.
3. Purpose of the meeting is to conduct the business of the NextGen RCS Board of Directors.

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*NextGen RCS Board of Directors*

#### **SAN DIEGO COUNTY - IMPERIAL COUNTY**

*Graham Mitchell, City Manager, City of El Cajon (Chair) - Chief Brian Boggeln, Alpine Fire Protection District (Vice Chair)  
Commander Ricardo Lopez, San Diego County Sheriff's Department - Jeff Toney, Director, San Diego County Office of Emergency Services  
Chief Alejandro Hernandez, National City Police Department - Chief Dan Barron, San Marcos Fire Department – Jason Akbari, Caltrans  
Chief Jimmy Duran, Brawley Police Department, IVECA – Chief Mike York, Brawley Fire Department, IVECA*

4. Approval of the Nextgen RCS Board of Directors' Minutes for the Meeting of October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Chief Chumbley, seconded by Mr. Rea, the Board of Directors approved the Minutes for the Meeting of October 11, 2023.

AYES: Directors Graham Mitchell; Ricardo Lopez; Brian Boggeln; Stephen Rea; Jeff Chumbley; Jason Akbari

5. Public Comments – There were no public comments.
6. Revenue/ Billing Update (October 2023 – January 2024)

- 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 Report (October 2023 – January 2024) – Mr. Dalton reported the following updates:

October 2023: 4.187 million calls, average 135,075 calls a day. From the 5 busies that occurred, 1 busy out of 65,817 calls in Imperial County Salton City ASR site and 4 busies out of 69,642 calls in Imperial County/Calexico ASR.

Historical comparison:

- October 2022 – 4.1 million calls with 23 busies
- October 2021 – 3.9 million calls with 26 busies
- October 2020 – 3.8 million calls with 49 busies

November 2023: 3.938 million calls, average 131,296 calls a day. From the 9 busies that occurred, 2 busies out of 90,018 calls in RCS Rams Hill ASR, 2 busies out of 972,419 calls in the RCS South Simulcast and 5 busies out of 66,306 calls in Imperial County/Calexico ASR.

Historical comparison:

- November 2022 – 3.9 million calls with 60 busies
- November 2021 – 3.7 million calls with 27 busies
- November 2020 – 3.5 million calls with 34 busies

December 2023: 3.878 million calls, average 125,099 calls a day. From the 23 busies that occurred, 3 busies out of 84,981 calls in RCS Rams Hill ASR and 20 busies out of 72,614 calls in Imperial County/Calexico ASR.

Historical comparison:

- December 2022 – 3.9 million calls with 76 busies
- December 2021 – 3.8 million calls with 13 busies
- December 2020 – 3.6 million calls with 39 busies

January 2024: 3.956 million calls, average 127,619 calls a day. From the 271 busies that occurred, 269 busies out of 996,177 calls in the RCS South Simulcast and 2 busies out of 69,231 calls in Imperial County/Calexico ASR.

Historical comparison:

- January 2023 – 4 million calls with 12 busies
- January 2022 – 4.1 million calls with 47 busies
- January 2021 – 3.8 million calls with 48 busies

: Began process of software updates on Microwave Backhaul radios. Out of 64 radios needing updates, 43 were completed. Project has gone as planned except for (3) sites that did not reboot properly, therefore, RCS Technician responded and manually rebooted.

## 8. Administrative Update

Training Update – Ms. Pia reported the following training updates:

Classes: October 2023 – January 2024, 13 classes were completed with 6 console classes and 7 field classes.

In-work: 12 classes are scheduled from February 2024 – June 2024.

## 9. Major Projects Update

### 9.1 RCS Site Projects Status – Mr. Brooks reported the following updates:

Generator Replacement: Total of 40 generators are owned by RCS. Sheriff's Wireless Services Division (WSD) and San Diego County Department of General Services (DGS) have transitioned to 15-year cycles (previously 20-year cycle). An average of 3 generator replacements per year, RCS is now caught up with the 15 to 20-year-old generators. After FY 2025/2026, all generators will be 9-years old.

- Milestones & Accomplishments: Generator Replacement Completed
  - December 15, 2023 – Monument Site
  - December 17, 2023 – Abbey ATS Site
- In-work: Generator Replacement
  - Palomar Site, pending installation by San Diego County DGS
  - Hendrix Site, pending installation by San Diego County DGS (requiring helicopter delivery of generator)

- North Peak Site, pending installation by San Diego County DGS
- Plan Forward: Generator Replacement
  - Spring 2024 – Generator equipment delivery for Banner Ranch Site and Campo Site.

Heating/Ventilating/Air Conditioning Replacement (HVAC): RCS manages total 71 HVAC units in 34 radio sites (2 HVAC units in each site) including Lake San Marcos Peak (3 HVAC units). HVAC replacement is currently a continuous cycle of 15-years for each unit with an average of 4 replaced each year.

- Milestones & Accomplishments: HVAC Units Install Completed
  - December 14, 2023 – Emery Hill Site
  - December 14, 2023 – White Star Site
  - December 21, 2023 – Borrego Springs Site
  - December 21, 2023 – Ocotillo Wells Site
- In-work: Pending Walk Through
  - Los Pinos Site
  - Chihuahua Valley Site
- Plan Forward: Scheduled Walk Through
  - March 5, 2024 – Monument Site
  - March 5, 2024 – North Peak Site

## 9.2 NextGen RCS Projects Status – Mr. Brooks reported the following updates:

TDMA P25 Phase I vs. Phase II Status Report: Dynamic mode allows radios system to manage the modulation of the radio between Phase I (1 voice path per channel) or Phase II (2 voice paths per channel). This will increase system capacity gradually. WSD continues to program radios and talkgroups to Dynamic Mode as they go through the Subscriber Shop. As Mr. Dalton reported in the Network Operations Update, system exceeds system design requirement of .01% grade of service or 1 busy per 1000 calls. January 2024 – 4 million calls with 271 busies, well below designed requirements. Most of those busies were concentrated at the RCS South Simulcast zone where there were 68,210 calls with 269 busies, which brought that cell to be .3% grade of service. Statistics show that the transition to the P25 system will have a minimal impact on normal operation and would benefit specific localized events.

Plan forward: WSD will continue to program talkgroups, radios for dynamic mode and work on a system report that will allow us to pull the information on how many cells are set up as Phase I vs. Phase II.

Black Mountain, San Diego Status Report: Finalized lease agreement with the

County and submitted it to PacBell, AT&T to finalize contract to present to the Board of Supervisors before June 2024.

Microwave, Pala Site: New Microwave link lease agreement approved by Board of Supervisors.

Budget: Current Balance for Phase 3 project is \$1.17 million. Contingency balance is \$774,000, for an overall project balance total of \$1.94 million.

9.3 IVECA Projects – Mr. Schmidt reported the following updates:

U.S. Dept of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and IVECA Board continue conversation for road repair for IVECA site generator refill. 15 propane vendors contacted so far from Southern California and Arizona with only one from Lake Havasu City, Arizona accepting delivery assignment acceptance, which will fill the 1,000-gallon tanks, currently at 70%, 125 gallons at a time.

Date palm fronds are obstructing microwave paths for Brundt's Corner/Green Road site. Issue occurred 1.5 years ago and was solved by trimming the date palm trees. Owner of date palm tree orchard will not repeat trimming due to cost. Discussion with Aviat to resolve this issue is to relocate microwave dish to a higher position, no cost estimates currently.

Replacement of current 3-wire utility service at Black Mountain, Imperial County Site has been identified and will be replaced with a new, tri-plex, twisted cable service at no cost. Meeting with Mark Schmidt and vendor will be on February 27, 2024.

Imperial County, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 4.1 magnitude earthquake and recent rains caused no issues with the IVECA system.

*Discussion: Mr. Mitchell mentioned that if BLM continues to be a challenge, RCS will offer their assistance in reaching congressional delegation. Mr. Schmidt acknowledged and IVECA Board is aware of RCS support.*

10. Consent Agenda

- 10.1 Request the RCS Board to approve U.S. Marshals, San Diego Fugitive Task Force (USMS) to increase their radio limit from 160 to 200 radios.
- 10.2 Request the RCS Board approve a new RCS customer agreement with Premier Ambulance for up to 25 radios.
- 10.3 Request the RCS Board approve a new RCS customer agreement with Brougham Ambulance for up to 10 radios.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Chief Boggeln, seconded by Commander Lopez, the Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda 10.1 to 10.3.

AYES: Directors Graham Mitchell; Ricardo Lopez; Brian Boggeln; Stephen Rea; Jeff Chumbley; Jason Akbari

**11. Main Agenda**

- 11.1 Request the RCS Board to approve the addition of Tait Communications TP9800 series as a new provider for subscriber radios.

*Discussion: Agenda Item 11.1 has been pulled due to more information required from Tait before moving forward with getting board approval.*

- 11.2 FY 2024-2025 Proposed Budget Presentation was presented by Ms. Pia – See attached.

*Discussion: Mr. Mitchell inquired if the Services & Supplies budget of \$1.9M for the current fiscal year will be on budget or if there are any expected savings., Ms. Pia responded that expenditure will be within budget, and RCS staff will re-allocate funding for unanticipated projects to use the rest of the balance. RCS normally averages \$200,000 in savings from budget to actuals due to the placeholders that will be used for road or structural improvements.*

*Mr. Mitchell inquired what is the \$1 in increased revenue mean. Ms. Pia responded that for every \$1 NOC fee increase for each radio would be an increase of \$248,000, which will still not be enough to cover RCS operating cost. RCS has been tapping into the Trust Fund for the past seven (7) years to cover the variance in the operational cost since there has not been a rate increase since 2017. Mr. Brooks also added that the RCS NextGen Project covered some of the cost for system since 2016 which. Trust Fund has continuously grown with current balance of \$6.01 million plus the minimum \$3 million RCS Board reserves. Normal operating cost to maintain the RCS is \$39/radio. RCS staff recommends to incrementally increase the NOC fee by \$1 every year, versus increasing the fees by \$10 all at once, and to continue to use the Trust Fund to bridge the gap until the NOC fees are at a sustainable level with the operating cost.*

*Chief Chumbley and Mr. Mitchell both agreed that the incremental/gradual increase in the NOC fee is a better option rather than a large increase at once. Mr. Brooks also added that RCS San Diego's fee is considerably below the rates of other counties in the State and in the nation.*

*Mr. Mitchell inquired if RCS would need more \$100,000 for road improvements. Mr. Brooks responded that \$100,000 is a placeholder for road improvements. Once RCS received more information on a more accurate price for the road improvements, Staff will present that information to the board.*

*Chief Boggeln inquired how RCS will notify agencies with the new increase. Mr. Brooks responded that after Board Meeting, agencies will receive notification from RCS of the increase. Ms. Pia added that reason why January invoices were on hold was because RCS will be sending a letter with the \$1 increase notification to agencies with the January 2024 statement.*

- 11.3 Request the RCS Board approve the RCS Budget and increase of \$1 at \$29.50 in Network Operating Cost (NOC) for FY 2024-2025.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Chief Chumbley, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Board of Directors approved the Main Agenda items 11.2 and 11.3.

AYES: Directors Graham Mitchell; Ricardo Lopez; Brian Boggeln; Stephen Rea; Jeff Chumbley; Jason Akbari

**12. Roundtable**

Mr. Rea and Chief Chumbley thanked the staff for the RCS site tour.

Mr. Mitchell asked if there is anything that RCS Board can pass down to their respective constituents. Mr. Brooks responded that RCS has available resources that the agencies can leverage and use like the added GPS systems that can be used by their dispatch centers. and the LTE Critical Connect System that will be added in the future.

13. End of Meeting – The meeting ended at 1:50 p.m.

**Next Board of Directors Meeting is on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.  
County Operations Center  
5500 Overland Avenue, Room 120, San Diego, CA 92123**



## Regional Communications System

### NETWORK OPERATION COST (NOC) BILLING AND REVENUE UPDATE

OCTOBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

	Invoice	Revenue Received	Receivables	
			Balance	%
October	495,472	494,400	1,073	0.22%
November	494,645	484,416	10,229	2.07%
December	485,433	404,959	80,474	16.58%
January	497,728	-	497,728	100.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,973,278</b>	<b>\$ 1,383,775</b>	<b>\$ 589,504</b>	<b>29.9%</b>

### RCS TRUST FUND BALANCE

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>11,594,588</b>
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LESS:

OBLIGATED EXPENDITURES:

Prior Years' Replacement Infrastructure/Improvement Projects	1,069,713
FY 23/24 Replacement Infrastructure/Improvement Projects	1,505,400
RCS BOD Minimum Reserve	3,000,000
	<u>5,575,113</u>

<b>PROJECTED AVAILABLE BALANCE AS OF January 31, 2024</b>	<b>6,019,475</b>
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***Regional Communications System***

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

# PROPOSED BUDGET

OF THE

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY - IMPERIAL COUNTY  
REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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**RCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

**PROPOSED NOC RATE AT \$29.50**



# ***Regional Communications System***

## **SAN DIEGO COUNTY - IMPERIAL COUNTY**

### **FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY**

#### **Network Operating Cost (NOC) at \$29.50 for FY 2024-2025**

#### **Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Budget Summary**

Projected O&M	\$	(9,465,751)
Projected NOC Revenue per radio & T1 Network Services Revenue	\$	7,004,676
Customer Infrastructure Payment Revenue	\$	1,207,062
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(1,254,013)</b>

#### **RCS Infrastructure Budget Summary**

Infrastructure Replacements / Improvements/ NextGen	\$	2,363,371
Requested Revenue from Trust Fund #61346	\$	(2,363,371)
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>

# FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

## REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (RCS)

### Proposed Revenue Projection

#### REVENUES

#### Network Operating Cost (NOC) at \$29.50

	Radio Counts				Revenue			
Network Operating Cost (NOC) Revenue	FY 23/24 Units (Budgeted)	FY24/25 Units (Proposed)	Change	Percent Change	FY 23/24 NOC Revenue (\$28.50/mo)	FY 24/25 NOC Revenue (\$29.50/mo)	Change	Percent Change
RCS Partner Agencies	10,833	11,063	230	2.1%	3,704,886	\$ 3,916,302	\$ 211,416	5.7%
County of San Diego	6,403	6,234	(169)	-2.6%	2,189,826	\$ 2,206,836	\$ 17,010	0.78%
RCS Customer Agencies	2,285	2,297	12	0.5%	781,470	\$ 813,138	\$ 31,668	4.1%
TOTALS	19,521	19,594	73	0.4%	6,676,182	\$ 6,936,276	\$ 260,094	3.9%
T1 Network Services Revenue					\$ 68,400	\$ 68,400		
Total NOC and T1 Network Revenue					\$ 6,744,582	\$ 7,004,676	\$ 260,094	3.9%

#### TRUST FUND REVENUE

FY 24/25 RCS Projected Revenue			Change	Percent Change
Trust Fund Revenue	FY 23/24 (Budgeted)	FY 24/25 (Proposed)		
RCS Customer Infrastructure Payments	\$ 1,209,393	\$ 1,207,062	\$ (2,331)	-0.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,209,393</b>	<b>\$ 1,207,062</b>	<b>\$ (2,331)</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>

\* Based on January 2024 Billing

# FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

## REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (RCS)

### Proposed Expenditure Projection

#### EXPENDITURES

Operations and Maintenance Budget Network Operating Cost (NOC Revenue)	FY 22/23 Budget	FY 22/23 Actuals	FY 23/24 Budget	FY 24/25 Proposed	FY23/24 AND FY 24/25 VARIANCE	Percent Change
Salary and Benefit Costs	4,659,796	3,830,892	5,175,570	5,571,372	395,802	7.6%
Services and Supplies	1,476,635	1,004,162	1,938,536	1,689,235	(249,301)	-12.9%
Telephone	25,000	20,178	25,000	25,000	-	0.0%
Vehicle Maintenance	185,258	156,529	213,390	224,885	11,495	5.4%
Rents, Leases, and Facility Operating Costs (FOC)	1,743,584	1,686,234	1,880,080	1,955,258	75,178	4.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 8,090,273</b>	<b>\$ 6,697,995</b>	<b>\$ 9,232,576</b>	<b>\$ 9,465,751</b>	<b>\$ 233,175</b>	<b>2.53%</b>

#### TRUST FUND EXPENDITURES

Infrastructure Replacement/Improvement Budget (Trust Fund)	FY 22/23 Budget	FY 23/24 Budget	FY 24/25 Proposed
(NextGen) Admin Analyst Part-Time	97,227	107,606	116,162
NextGen Overtime	75,000	75,000	25,000
Generators with ATS (3)	495,000	525,000	525,000
HVAC (10)	72,000	120,000	150,000
RCS Site Relocations/Acquisitions (planning costs)	20,000	30,000	30,000
NextGen Backhaul Configuration	50,000	50,000	50,000
Tansportable Radio Facility (TRF)		1,000,000	
Consultant for Radio Frequency Engineering		300,000	
UPS Units (5)			125,000
Cisco Enterprise ASR903 MPLS Routers Refresh Upgrades (30)			750,000
Dehydrators (20)			90,000
Gate installation (Pala)			25,000
Road improvement (Lyons)			100,000
Critical Connect for LTE			100,000
NextGen Interest Payment Variance			277,209
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 809,227</b>	<b>\$ 2,207,606</b>	<b>\$ 2,363,371</b>

Operation and Maintenance Cost Variance	1,525,925	2,487,993	2,461,075
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