



Agenda Date: 2/7/2006  
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## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer  
Emergency Services  
**REPORT BY:** Patti DeWeese, Staff Services Analyst, 253-4197  
**SUBJECT:** Purchase Fixed Asset for Communications Microwave/Simulcast Project

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer/Director of Emergency Services requests approval of the following items related to the purchase of communications equipment to continue the modernization of the countywide microwave communications system:

1. Approval of Budget Transfer No. 52 in the amount of \$109,988 increasing appropriations in the Communications budget with offsetting revenue from the Emergency Services budget to establish a fixed asset in the amount of \$109,988 for the purchase of communications equipment for the microwave communications system modernization project (4/5 vote required); and
2. A waiver of competitive bidding requirements and sole source award for the purchase of the communications equipment from Harris Microwave Communications Division in Redwood Shores, California, for \$109,988 pursuant to County Ordinance Code 2.36.090.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Napa County Terrorism Working Group Approval Authority has approved as a priority project the continuation of the project to replace and upgrade of the 20+ year old County microwave system. The Approval Authority has allocated \$80,000 from the FY 05 State Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and \$30,000 from the FY 05 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) grant to continue this project. Purchase and installation of this simulcast equipment will complete the project of rebuilding and updating the County microwave system. This system is the backbone of all long distance radio communications and, when it is completed, will provide a robust, technologically current, compatible, and "push to talk" capability for radio communications anywhere within Napa County. The interoperability of the proposed system has been vetted by the State and Federal Departments of Homeland Security as compatible and integratable with future proposed state and federal communications systems as required by the Presidential Homeland Security Declaration #5.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Emergency Services
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	This equipment is an integral part of the microwave upgrade project which, when completed, will provide reliable communications throughout Napa County for all jurisdictions and disciplines. This is imperative in both emergency and non-emergency situations.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	This is a three year project, with this equipment purchase being the third of three years. This equipment will complete the original objective of replacing the existing microwave system with a modern robust digital system, with a single simulcast police channel. In order to expand the simulcast system to include police secondary and County Fire channels, additional funding sources will be need to be identified. The Communications Division is currently meeting with State OES to pursue funding through the regional Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program in order to fund this expansion.  Upon completion of the system the County will be responsible for maintaining the communications equipment. Due to the fact that the new equipment is state of the art and all solid state the actual maintenance costs should decrease when compared to the current system. The new system will be substantially more reliable, affordable, maintainable and dependable
Consequences if not approved:	If the Board chooses not to proceed with the purchase of communications equipment for this project, the County would need to negotiate with the State Department of Homeland Security to modify the grant program and implementation plans. This might result in a \$110,000 reduction in the grant amount. In addition, the microwave project would remain incomplete, reducing the ability of all disciplines to communicate effectively and reliably. If the Board were to reject the recommendation for a sole source award, it would be necessary to undertake a competitive process to purchase this equipment. If Harris were not selected, additional time and cost would be incurred to integrate the equipment with the Harris equipment already purchased during the first phases of the project.
Additional Information:	None

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

Napa County applied for and was awarded a total of \$493,992 in grant funds under the FY05 Homeland Security Grant Program.

The Napa Operational Area Terrorism Working Group, in accordance with Office of Homeland Security directives, has constructed and approved the planned grant expenditures through their Approval Authority Body consisting of the County Health Officer, County Fire Chief, Municipal Fire Chief, County Sheriff and a Chief of Police. Grant funds are used to benefit all Napa Operational Area jurisdictions and disciplines.

The 2005 Homeland Security grant funds are appropriated in the Emergency Services budget unit with Napa County Emergency Services being the central ordering point for items purchased with grant funds. In order for this fixed asset to be established in the Communications budget instead of the Emergency Services budget, it is necessary to transfer funds in the amount of \$109,988 from Emergency Services to the Communications budget unit. These grant funds for the County microwave system upgrade do not affect the County general fund.

Napa County's communications microwave system went into service in 1988. The system uses a Motorola Starpoint 6000. Motorola has discontinued this product and no longer provides parts or maintenance. The County system is no longer compatible with current generations of the State microwave system and no longer meets the requirement for interoperability under standards adopted by the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

After consulting with both the state telecommunications staff from General Services Administration and the State Department of Homeland Security, the decision was made at the start of the project to sole source the purchase using the same brand and supplier of equipment that is building the state microwave backbone. This simplified interoperability planning and performance with the State Microwave system. Since the first phase of the microwave upgrade used Harris, this purchase will build on previously purchased equipment providing continuity and compatibility.

The primary components of the County's microwave for first responders are:

1. Remote station control on the Napa County Fire radio channel;
2. Napa County telephone circuits to California Department of Forestry (CDF)/Napa County Fire St. Helena facility;
3. Hotline from CDF/Napa County Fire Emergency Command Center (ECC) to Napa [City] Dispatch (part of the emergency response system); and
4. Receiver Voter system for the Police Primary radio channel used by the Napa City Police and the County Sheriff's departments.

Completion of this project will achieve the original objective of replacing the existing microwave system with a modern robust digital system, with a single simulcast police channel. Additional grant funding possibilities are being looked into in order to expand the simulcast system to include police secondary and County Fire channels and provide other enhancements to the system. The Communications Division recently met with State OES to pursue funding through the regional Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program in FY06.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey