



Agenda Date: 6/20/2006
Agenda Placement: 6JJ

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Neal T. O'Haire, Emergency Services Manager, 253-4257
SUBJECT: Letter of Agreement with MTC for the installation of a Satellite Telecommunication System in the County Emergency Operations Center

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer/Director of Emergency Services requests authorization to sign a letter of acceptance and related documents with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) relating to the purchase and installation of a satellite telecommunications system by MTC in the County Emergency Operations Center to facilitate reliable communications during a major emergency in the Bay Area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), in order to ensure communications connectivity with key agencies during periods of disaster or emergency, has offered each of the nine Bay Area counties a satellite phone, external antenna and installation of said unit in return for the County maintaining the phone in their Emergency Operations Center and participating in a monthly communications test. This phone system would provide a direct dial link to any phone number worldwide and a radio link to all of the other stations on the MTC Network. The cost of equipment, installation and external cabling and antennas would be borne by the granting agency. The monthly access cost of the service would be born by the receiving agency.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Emergency Services (29300) has sufficient appropriations to cover the monthly cost of service.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary

Discretionary Justification:	For a very limited investment of less than \$1,200 per annum, the County would receive a satellite-based radio and phone link to statewide transportation and emergency services providers. This system would be uninterruptible and ties to the emergency power system of the County Emergency Operations Center.
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	The system would require annual access service fees from the Satellite provider which would be included in the communications line item for Emergency Services.
Consequences if not approved:	During a disaster situation, the ability to communicate is essential. This is a very secure and cost effective system. Not approving the expenditure would limit the needed redundancy of emergency communications for the County.
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

As part of the Urban Area Strategic Initiative and the regional disaster planning being conducted by the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission has initiated this communications initiative to ensure connectivity between transportation providers and government command and control centers during times of disaster or major emergency. This initiative would tie all of the nine-county Emergency Operations Centers and the major transportation providers into a cost effective combined radio and direct dial, satellite-based network that will greatly improve the County's ability to communicate during disasters.

County Counsel has reviewed the letter as to legal sufficiency and has expressed no objections; therefore, staff recommends that the Board authorize the County Executive Officer/Director of Emergency Services to execute the letter and any related documents on behalf of the County.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . MTC Letter Agreement

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Maiko Klieman