To: **Bay Area UASI Approval Authority**

From: **Barry Fraser, General Manager**

Date: **January 9, 2014**

Re: **Item #10: Report from the Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communications System Joint Powers Authority (BayRICS Authority)**

Recommendations:

Receive and File Report

Action or Discussion Items:

Report from General Manager of the BayRICS Authority on the activities of the BayRICS Authority for November/December 2013.

Discussion/Description:

1. BayRICS Administration

The BayRICS Board of Directors met on November 14, 2013. Staff provided the BayRICS Board with an update on the FirstNet Spectrum Lease negotiations, and the Board took action on two items: (1) authorize two Bay Area UASI 2014 Funding Requests; and (2) extend the BayLoop maintenance and monitoring agreement for an additional 12 months, through February 2015. These activities are described in more detail below.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BayRICS Board will be January 9, 2014 at 1:30 PM at the Alameda County Sheriff OES, 4985 Broder Blvd., Dublin, CA 94568.

FirstNet Spectrum Lease Negotiations. As of the submission date of this report, the BayRICS Board has not approved a Spectrum Manager Lease Agreement (SMLA) with FirstNet. FirstNet and Motorola (the BTOP grantee) remain apart on several issues, so the Board does not have a final agreement to approve. BayRICS' negotiations team, FirstNet and Motorola have been in negotiations for over 10 months, and had tentatively agreed to several new changes to the SMLA, as well as significant changes to the "Build, Own, Operate and Maintain" (BOOM) master agreement between BayRICS and Motorola. However, the parties remain apart on key issues related to responsibility for future costs to implement changes to the network required by FirstNet.

The most recent negotiating deadline set by FirstNet of November 15 has passed without an agreement. The next FirstNet Board meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2013. We anticipate that FirstNet will provide a determination on the status of the spectrum lease at that meeting. The BayRICS Board remains prepared to act swiftly if an agreement can be reached, and will continue to seek acceptable solutions or an alternative path forward for the BayWEB project and BTOP grant funding.

Bay Area Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) 2014 Funding Requests. Staff, with the assistance of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the five regional P25 system operators, prepared two funding requests for the Bay Area UASI 2014 grant cycle. At the November 14 meeting, BayRICS Board approved both proposals.

The first request, $220,000 for BayLoop maintenance and monitoring services, would continue ongoing sustainment of BayLoop regional microwave network through December 2015. BayRICS has received UASI funding to maintain and monitor BayLoop under UASI 2012 ($265,000) and 2013 ($240,000) grant cycles.

The second request, $100,000 for the P25 network regional coordination project, would support coordination of regional Project 25 (P25) voice communications projects for calendar year 2015. Through the leadership of BayRICS TAC, regional P25 coordination efforts will begin in 2014, with UASI 2013 funding contributed by Alameda County, Contra Costa County, San Mateo County, City and County of San Francisco and City of San Jose. This pooled funding has been awarded to San Mateo County to hire a contractor to manage and update the regional "fleetmap" channel allocation planning, develop standard procedures for inter-system roaming to support mutual aid, and begin high-level planning for future system interconnection. These coordination efforts are required to ensure that Bay Area's regional P25 networks are fully optimized to support all the needs of Bay Area Public Safety.

However, this funding only supports the project through 2014, even though these tasks are ongoing and must continue for the foreseeable future. In addition, San Mateo County assumed responsibility for these tasks only on a temporary basis. The five regional P25 system operators have indicated that this work should eventually be transferred to BayRICS and its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as the appropriate agency to oversee these regional efforts. Having BayRICS assume these tasks aligns with the recommendations of the JPA's Interoperable Voice Communications Assessment endorsed by BayRICS at its May 9, 2013 meeting (This report is available at http://www.bayrics.net/bay-area-interoperable-communications-report.html).

Extension of BayLoop Maintenance and Monitoring Agreement. Also at the November meeting, the BayRICS Board authorized the BayRICS General Manager to extend the BayLoop Maintenance and Network Monitoring agreement with Aviat USA, Inc. for an additional 12-month term, and to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BayRICS and Alameda County to accept $240,000 in UASI 2013 grant funding to reimburse BayRICS for the costs of this contract extension.

2. California First Responder Network Authority (CalFRN)

Staff received notice that the CalFRN Board will hold a kickoff meeting in January 2014. BayRICS Chair Rich Lucia and General Manager Barry Fraser will represent the Bay Area on the CalFRN Board, which will guide the development of standards and requirements for the FirstNet network in California and will assist the Governor's Office of Emergency Services as it negotiates the State's network deployment plan with FirstNet.