



MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY
c/o Town of Corte Madera
300 Tamalpais Drive – Corte Madera, CA 94925
PHONE: (415) 927-5050
WWW.MERAONLINE.ORG

Executive Board

Regular Meeting Notice

DATE: Wednesday – September 9, 2026 **TIME:** 3:30pm

PLACE: The Council Chambers of the Corte Madera Town Hall, Lower Level Conference Room: located at 300 Tamalpais Drive, Corte Madera.

Teleconference participation is offered in the meeting via Zoom as a courtesy to the public. If no members of the Board are attending the meeting via teleconference, and a technical error or outage occurs on the teleconference feed, the Board will continue the meeting in public in the meeting place noted above.

Members of the public may observe and participate in the meeting remotely through the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95430548868>

(No pre-registration required - click on the link at the meeting start time) You may also call: 1(408)638-0968 or 1(669)900-6833 (Webinar ID: 954 3054 8868)

Or iPhone one-tap: 14086380968,,95430548868# or 16699006833,,95430548868#

Members of the public may submit public comment by:

1. Emailing lbarrera@cortemadera.gov prior to or during the meeting -
2. Joining the meeting by Zoom and selecting the "Raise Hand" icon during the meeting; or
3. Joining the meeting by phone and dialing *9 to add yourself to the speaker queue.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a reasonable modification or accommodation pursuant to the Americans With Disabilities Act ("ADA"), please contact Lorena Barrera, Town of Corte Madera Clerk/Assistant to the Town Manager, at lbarrera@cortemadera.gov or (415) 927-5086. Notification at least 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Board to make reasonable accommodations to help ensure accessibility to this meeting.

AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

- B. Approval of Minutes from Executive Board Regular Meeting 3-11-2026 (Action-Plamondon)
- C. Approval of Change in Regular Meeting Location for NERA Executive Board (Action-Plamondon)
- D. NERA System Use Reports_ August 2026 (Plamondon-Reports)
- E. NERA Year End Budget Reporting (Plamondon-Discussion)
- F. Executive Officers Next Gen Update (Plamondon-Report/Discussion)
- G. Open Time for Items Not on agenda (limited to two minutes per speaker)
Anyone wishing to address the Executive Board on matters not on the posted agenda may do so. Each speaker is limited to two minutes. California Government Code Section 54954.2 provides that the Executive Board may not take action on, or even consider or debate, items not on the agenda except under narrow circumstances that meet statutory tests for emergencies or urgent items that arise after the agenda is published. Accordingly, any response to comments on non-agenda items will be limited to factual information or clarifying questions from staff or Executive Board members. The Chair may refer the matter to staff for further follow up, or elect to have the matter placed on an agenda for a future meeting.
- H. Adjournment
NEXT: NERA Executive Board Regular Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2026

AGENDA AND STAFF REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: WWW.MERAONLINE.ORG

cc: TCM (for posting) MERA Staff General Counsel



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Executive Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday – March 11, 2026 **TIME:** 3:30pm

PLACE: The Council Chambers of the Corte Madera Town Hall, Lower Level Conference Room: located at 300 Tamalpais Drive, Corte Madera.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting Called to Order by Todd Cusimano at 3:31PM

Executive Board Members

Representing	Representative	Present	Absent
Ross Valley Cities/Towns	Chris Good	X	
County of Marin	Jason Weber	X	
Fire Services	Mark Pomi	X	
Police Departments	Michael Norton		X
Special Districts	Don Wick	X	
Southern Marin Cities/Towns	Todd Cusimano	X	
Marin County Sheriff	Jamie Scardina	X	
City of San Rafael	Abraham Roman		X
City of Novato	Bill Rose	X	

Staff Present: MERA Executive Officer Heather Plamondon
Secretary Lorena Barrera

B. Approval of Minutes from Executive Board Regular Meeting 1-14-2026 (Action-Plamondon)

M/S/C (Wick/Weber). Motion passed

C. MERA FY25-26 Budget Reports presented. No concerns

D. MERA System Use and User Reports presented. No concerns

E. Review and Approve a Mutual Aid Talkgroup Request from Santa Rosa PD (Action-Plamondon)

Approved to move forward with sharing the existing NB Mutual Aid talkgroups with Santa Rosa Police. MOU will be provided and MC Radio Shop will be coordinating the programming and addition of the identified radios.

- F. Proposed FY 26/27 MERA Budget Package was presented and discussed. Using the same format as the past two budget cycle's, no changes. Noted the consolidation of three services agreements with the County DPW into one agreement and moving to a monthly bill for services from DPW to MERA rather than flat quarterly payments made. Staff believe this will allow for more accurate reflection of services provided and more accurate billing. Also presented increasing the Cap Replacement contribution to \$650K, this will build our reserves faster and with the budget savings off-set there will still not be an increase to the total agency contributions.

The proposed budget was supported and will move forward to the GB as presented with the \$650K cap contribution.

- G. Next Gen Update provided.

- a. Novato_ Reviewed the work that Motorola has been doing on chasing down the coverage concerns in areas of Novato, looking at Antenna placement at the Big Rock repeater site, interference from the AT&T Antennas near FS65, and doing drive testing with the Radio Shop to test signal strength from the subscribers.
- b. Sonoma County_ Had a discussion with Motorola and Sonoma County about opportunities to share repeater sites, at this time, except for Sonoma Mountain (where we used to have RF, and now only Microwave) they do not have sites that would benefit the MERA footprint.

Adjournment: 4:04PM



TO: MERA Executive Board

FROM: Heather Tannehill-Plamondon, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Request for Approval to Move the Location of the Regular MERA Executive Board Meetings to 1600 Los Gamos Drive, San Rafael

Recommended Action: Approve

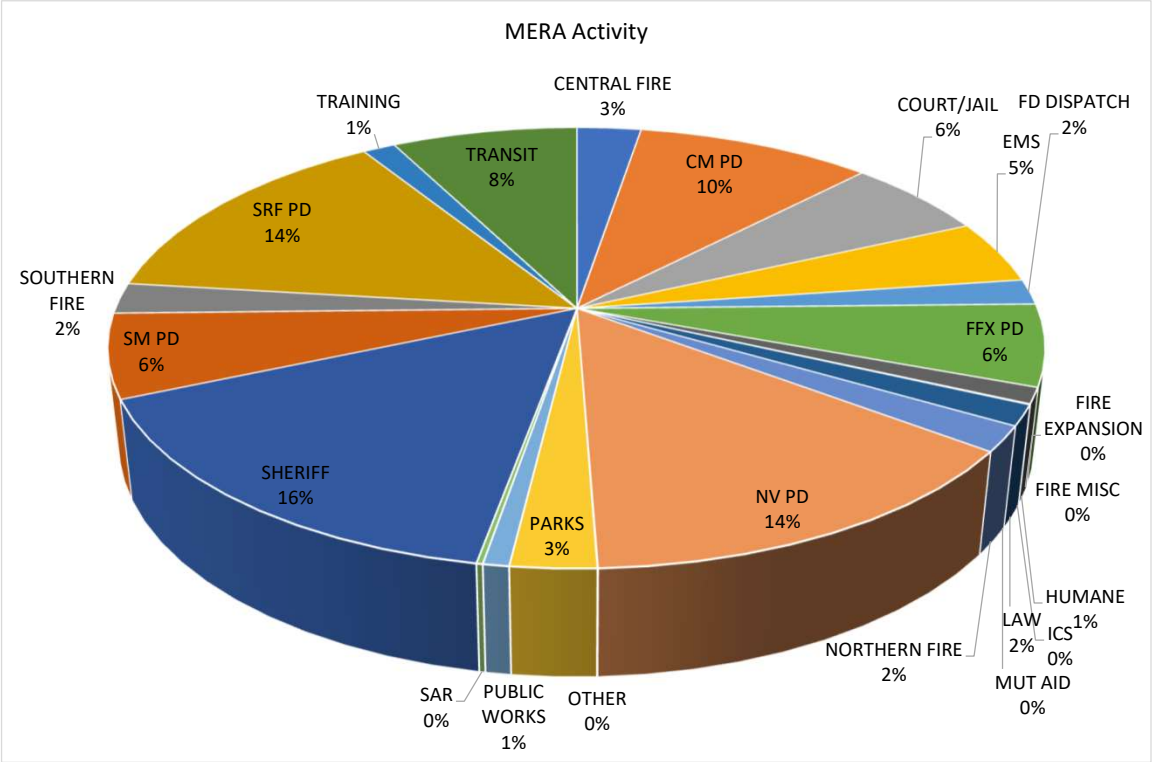
Summary: The regular meetings of the MERA Governing Board are held at the 1600 Los Gamos Drive location, with upcoming staff changes in MERA Admin support, this move would make our Public Meeting (Brown Act) location consistent.

Also, effective at the end of September, Lorena Barrera, who has been our dedicated Board and meeting support Admin, and the keeper of my sanity, will be going on maternity leave. Chief Pomi and his team have stepped up to address our administrative needs during her absence. Welcome to Jena Wilson, Administrative Officer with the Kentfield Fire Protections District.

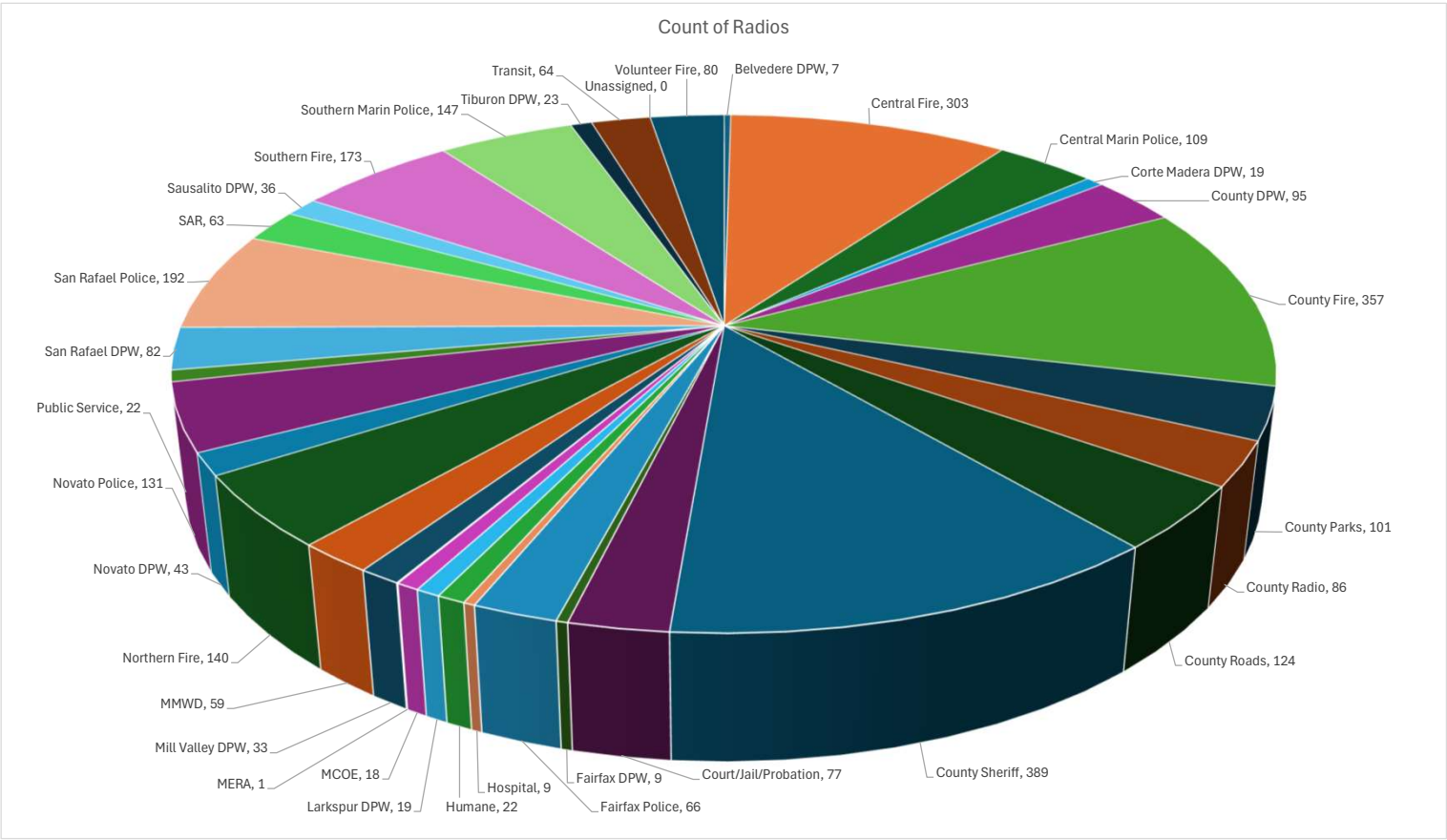
Report Date August 2026

Agency	Radio Calls	Call Time	Busy Time	Percent Usage
CENTRAL FIRE	6,667	13:36:16	0:00:00	2.62%
CM PD	21,011	50:12:08	0:00:00	9.66%
COURT/JAIL	16,340	30:38:01	0:00:00	5.90%
EMS	3,264	24:08:41	0:00:00	4.65%
FD DISPATCH	3,691	9:37:54	0:00:00	1.85%
FFX PD	11,340	31:00:23	0:00:00	5.97%
FIRE EXPANSION	2	0:00:12	0:00:00	0.00%
FIRE MISC	7	0:01:37	0:00:00	0.01%
HUMANE	2,237	5:57:43	0:00:00	1.15%
ICS	158	0:19:38	0:00:00	0.06%
LAW	3,396	7:47:58	0:00:00	1.50%
MUT AID	18	0:01:17	0:00:00	0.00%
NORTHERN FIRE	4,376	9:42:14	0:00:00	1.87%
NV PD	25,945	73:38:50	0:00:00	14.17%
OTHER	55	0:04:20	0:00:00	0.01%
PARKS	5,203	13:01:12	0:00:00	2.51%
PUBLIC WORKS	2,002	3:56:36	0:00:00	0.76%
SAR	375	0:57:43	0:00:00	0.19%
SHERIFF	30,176	81:14:54	0:00:00	15.64%
SM PD	11,947	31:53:27	0:00:00	6.14%
SOUTHERN FIRE	5,656	11:40:03	0:00:00	2.25%
SRF PD	28,421	73:43:15	0:00:00	14.19%
TRAINING	2,274	6:55:47	0:00:00	1.33%
TRANSIT	15,454	39:26:21	0:00:00	7.59%
Totals	200,015	519:36:30	0:00:00	100.00%

Category	Radio Calls	Call Times	Busy Time	Percent Usage	Category Descriptions
LAW TOTAL:	148,576	380:08:56	0:00:00	73.16%	All Law Enforcement Agencies
FIRE TOTAL:	20,399	44:38:16	0:00:00	8.59%	All Fire Enforcement Agencies
PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL:	2,002	3:56:36	0:00:00	0.76%	All Public Works Agencies
MUTUAL AID TOTAL:	393	0:59:00	0:00:00	0.19%	911, EOC, EOM, SAR, Fair
PUBLIC SERVICE TOTAL:	28,487	89:34:04	0:00:00	17.24%	EMS, Transit, Schools, Training, Parks
ICS TOTAL:	158	0:19:38	0:00:00	0.06%	Interop Incident Command
	200,015	519:36:30	0:00:00	100.00%	

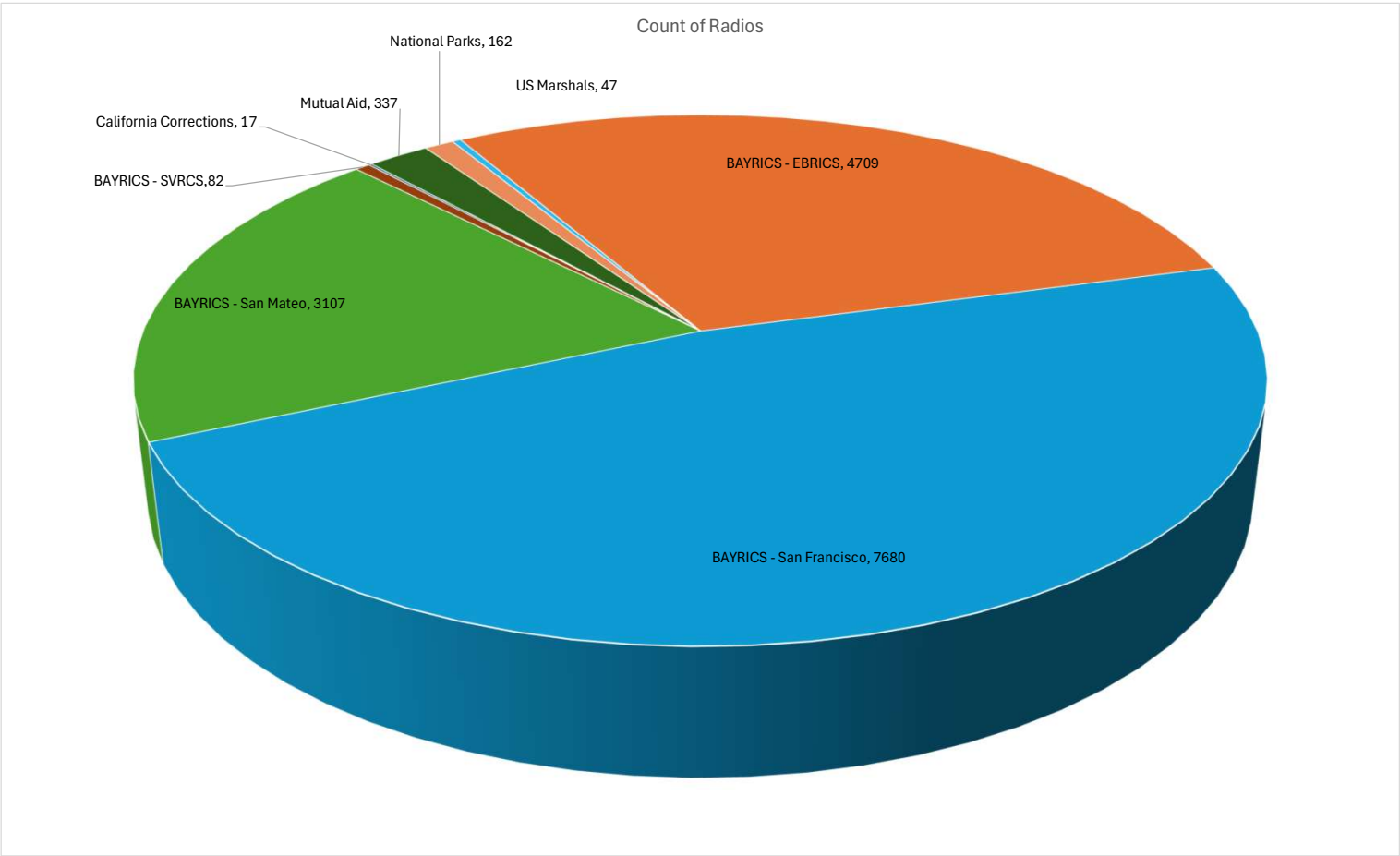


MERA Radio Assignment	
Report Date	August 2026
Agency Group	Count of Radios
Belvedere DPW	7
Central Fire	303
Central Marin Police	109
Corte Madera DPW	19
County DPW	95
County Fire	357
County Parks	101
County Radio	86
County Roads	124
County Sheriff	389
Court/Jail/Probation	77
Fairfax DPW	9
Fairfax Police	66
Hospital	9
Humane	22
Larkspur DPW	19
MCOE	18
MERA	1
Mill Valley DPW	33
MMWD	59
Northern Fire	140
Novato DPW	43
Novato Police	131
Public Service	22
San Rafael DPW	82
San Rafael Police	192
SAR	63
Sausalito DPW	36
Southern Fire	173
Southern Marin Police	147
Tiburon DPW	23
Transit	64
Unassigned	0
Volunteer Fire	80
Total Radio Count	3099
Total Licensed	52000
Total Provisioned	19274



MERA Interop Radio Assignment	
Report Date	August 2026
Agency Group	Count of Radios
BAYRICS - EBRICS	4709
BAYRICS - San Francisco	7680
BAYRICS - San Mateo	3107
BAYRICS - SVRCS	82
California Corrections	17
Mutual Aid	337
National Parks	162
US Marshals	47
Total Radio Count	16141
Total Licensed	52000
Total Provisioned	19274

Mutual Aid Organizations
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
California Highway Patrol
California OES
NorCal Ambulance
San Quentin Fire Department



TO: MERA Executive Board

FROM: Heather Tannehill-Plamondon, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Executive Officers Next Gen Update

Recommended Action: No Action

Summary:

- **Novato Coverage Issues:**
After months of system checks, drive testing around the city, diagnostic assessments of the repeater antenna sites and tuning and alignment of each portable radio it has been determined that the antennas on the AFG purchased portable radios (APX8000) need to have their antennas replaced. Motorola has agreed to replace them at no cost to MERA. As of 9/3/26 the antennas have been ordered and we are awaiting a ship date. Once the new antennas arrive the Radio Shop will coordinate the delivery and installation on all of the radios purchased during the AFG/Early Order process County wide.
- **Motorola Next Series Subscribers**
During all of the work that was being done to identify and address the coverage concerns one of the things that MERA and the Radio Shop tested is new Motorola Radios that have “smart connect” capability. These radios allow the user to roam from the MERA Radio network onto a cellular network if the cellular coverage is stronger. This requires a different portable radio from those that have been deployed to date and each radio requires a cellular Sim Card (service agreement). MERA has begun the process of adding these radios as purchasable items under the master MERA contract with Motorola (Contract amendment pending). At this time MERA expects that each agency that wants this type of portable radio will make the purchase from Motorola and be responsible for not only the cost of the unit, but also the necessary cellular “subscription”.
- **Motorola Technology Roadmap**
As we near completion of the second year of operation on the NG System, we have begun discussions with Motorola about the lifecycle of the equipment that was deployed under the NG contract (2017).
 - Motorola has announced that the Prime Site Hardware equipment, we have two sets of this East and West Cell, will reach its end of support in 2028. We are covered for applicable software upgrades through the exiting SUA but once the hardware fails we will need to replace it.
 - The SDM 3000, which we have 18 deployed in our network will also reach end of support in 2028. This falls under the same software protection and

will receive an upgrade in 2027 but once the hardware fails, they will also need to be replaced.

- The MCC7500 Consoles will reach their end of support in 2030. The software for the consoles will be upgraded in 2027, and again in 2029. However, once we reach 2030 there will not be software upgrades available under the SUA.
- The D-series radios which we have throughout the sites (164) will reach their end of support in 2032.

While we have started the discussions with Motorola about how these dates and timelines will impact MERA and be impacted by our on-going SUA commitment through 2035, we also need to start talking about the replacement planning and costs associated within MERA and the MERA agencies so funding planning can begin with at least a few years to make necessary adjustments.

- **Bay Area Regional Partner Discussions**

Several years ago, with support from the Bay Area UASI, a regional group was established known as Bay RICS (Regional Interoperable Communications Systems). The nine Bay Area Counties worked together on interoperability, regional projects and events, and built relationships between the Radio Shops and users. This official group, governed by a JPA for a time, has fallen apart with the UASI no longer staffing the JPA Administration, but the agency members have begun to meet again to discuss systems, costs, shared opportunities and to reestablish the relationships between our shops and users. Within the region there are 8 of 9 Counties and JPAs that run Motorola systems, we see this as an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about redundancy (which none of us have at the System Core level), coverage overlap and potentially cost savings with the vendors as a larger group rather than as individuals. All of us are at different stages of use of our Motorola systems, but we are all facing the same lifecycle discussions. This has prompted us to talk about opportunities for a possible regional replacement plan, maximizing purchasing power across multiple agencies while exploring advanced open-architecture designs and structural redundancies.