



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Sheriff's Office



**Date:** June 4, 2014  
**Board Meeting Date:** July 15, 2014  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Greg Munks, Sheriff

**Subject:** Purchase and Installation of Microwave Downlink System into the Sheriff's Office Cessna aircraft.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to purchase a Microwave Downlink System from Hangar One Avionics, in an amount not to exceed \$144,374.

**BACKGROUND:**

Last year, the San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force (SMCNTF) replaced the 1980 Cessna 206 aircraft with the purchase of a 2012 Cessna 206 aircraft. The 1980 Cessna was sold to the Monterey County Sheriff's Office with the agreement that the proceeds would be used to fund equipment for the new aircraft.

The SMCNTF aircraft is the primary aerial observation platform for the 21 local law enforcement agencies. It is often utilized by both state and federal law enforcement agencies to conduct covert operations, patrol, and search and rescue missions. The aircraft does not currently have the equipment for real-time microwave downloading of images from an aerial platform to ground base stations. The microwave downlink system has been proven to be an effective tool for regional law enforcement investigations, search and rescue operations, and disaster management.

**DISCUSSION:**

Microwave downlink technology transmits live video from an aircraft to staff on the ground so the ground-based personnel can see what the aircrew sees. The microwave downlink system provides an aerial observation platform for security assessments and decision making. Real-time information can be downloaded to multiple locations during the day or night.

Currently, all aerial support missions are limited to daylight hours and only still photographs are available and can only be delivered by landing the aircraft. The

microwave downlink system will allow Command Center staff to view situations in real-time and make appropriate decisions. Acquiring this system would give the County of San Mateo a capability it currently does not possess.

Hanger One Avionics performed the installation of the electronic systems, camera equipment and aero computer mapping in the new aircraft. Once purchased, the Microwave Downlink equipment will be installed and connected to the camera equipment. Since Hanger One Avionics has been the sole installer of all the equipment in the aircraft, it is recommended that they also install and connect the Microwave downlink equipment. In addition, Hanger One Avionics is based in California, making it easier to transport the aircraft to the installation site and back. This will allow for less downtime of the aircraft. For these reasons, the Sheriff's Office is requesting that the County requirement for the Request for Proposals process be waived for the purchase and installation of a microwave downlink system.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this purchase contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by giving the County, as well as local and regional public safety responders, the ability to share resources in real-time and across jurisdictional borders, as well as to ensure that the safety of the communities we serve and that of first responders is met in a responsible and timely manner.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>FY 2014-15 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2015-16 Projected</b>
Number of operations conducted with the use of Nora 51	73	100
Percent of unplanned operations responded to within one hour	100%	100%

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost to purchase and install the Microwave Downlink system is for an amount not to exceed \$144,373, which will be funded through the proceeds from the sale of the 1980 Cessna 206 aircraft in the amount of \$139,740, and the balance of \$4,634 has been allocated from the SMCNTF asset forfeiture account. There is no Net County Cost.