



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Information Services



**Date:** May 14, 2013  
**Board Meeting Date:** June 18, 2013  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** 4/5ths

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Jon Walton, CIO/Director of Information Services Department

**Subject:** Appropriation Transfer Request

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Resolution authorizing an Appropriation Transfer Request in the amount of \$450,000 from the Public Safety Half-Cent Sales Tax Fund to the Information Services Department and making corresponding appropriations in Fixed Assets for radio infrastructure improvements.

**BACKGROUND:**

The lack of regional interoperable communications (the inability to communicate between agencies or across geographic jurisdictional boundaries) has hindered the ability for public safety first responders to respond to major emergencies like the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and the 2010 San Bruno fire. In an effort to improve first responder communications, San Mateo County began the implementation of the San Mateo Interoperable Radio Communications (SMIRC) project. The project involves the development of a P25 standards based radio system. This P25 system will provide the two-fold benefit of: (1) replacing the County's legacy radio system which is nearing the end of its life cycle. The legacy system has been in place for 13 years. Replacement parts are no longer manufactured and some components can no longer be repaired; and (2) providing greater interoperability with our regional partners that have also committed to deploying P25 radio equipment. Those regional partners include: San Francisco City and County, Santa Clara County, Marin County, Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Sacramento City and County, California Highway Patrol, Sam Trans, and other agencies.

An example of how this new capability can benefit the County would be in a scenario such as last year when Sheriff's Deputies were deployed to the City of Oakland to provide mutual aid for an Occupy Oakland event. In this scenario, with a new P25 system, those Deputies will now have the ability to communicate directly with local agencies at the event, and they would still have the ability to communicate with Sheriff's

staff and Public Safety dispatch in San Mateo County. Another example is a scenario such as the San Bruno explosion. During that event, San Francisco Fire responded to provide mutual aid. Once on scene they could not communicate via radio and had to revert to cell phone and relay messages to those at the scene. The new system would have provided San Francisco Fire the ability to directly communicate with those individuals on scene, and with their home agency.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The SMIRC infrastructure is almost completed. The project funding to date of approximately \$14,000,000 has been achieved primarily through Federal Grants. An additional \$450,000 is required to make the final push to complete the infrastructure build out and user migration. These remaining dollars will fund equipment and installation services for three fixed repeaters, DC power plants, various fixed base stations, microwave radio and networking equipment.

With your Board's support, ISD will work with the equipment vendor and system user agencies to complete the project by July 2014. With the completion of the project, the County's radio user agencies (Sheriff, Public Works, Parks, Probation, AMR, EMS, D.A, Coroner, Humane Society, Sam Trans, Public Health and others) will reap the benefits of greater first responder interoperability, improved radio coverage, improved system performance, and improved user equipment performance.

Approval of this ATR contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by providing all County radio users with the increased communications interoperability with other Local, State and Federal regional partners.

#### **PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>FY 2012-13 Projected</b>	<b>FY 2013-14 Projected</b>
Number of Trunked Radio Users	1473	1900

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This Appropriation Transfer Request for \$450,000 provides funding for materials, ISD labor and vendor services to complete SMIRC infrastructure and system migration. The costs to complete this project will be included in ISD's Recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14.