

**MOTION BY  
MAYOR ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

**Executive Management & Audit Committee**  
June 18, 2009

**Item 65 - Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS)**

The Los Angeles region is one the largest urban areas in the nation with more than 10 million residents living within 4,084 square miles; a population greater than that of forty-two of the fifty States.

Fifty law enforcement and thirty-one fire service agencies provide public safety services to eighty-eight municipalities, and numerous unincorporated areas, as well as schools and universities, and the port and airport of Los Angeles.

These agencies have historically developed emergency communications systems that primarily meet localized or shared needs, but fail to provide seamless, day-to-day interoperable communications with all jurisdictions and agencies.

The fragmented nature of these aging systems has and will continue to significantly limit the ability to communicate during major emergencies.

Nationwide, the events of September 11, 2001, have focused public awareness on the need for emergency personnel from different agencies to communicate with one another, a fact recommended in the 9/11 Commission Report.

This, together with the fact that many of the agencies' communication systems are obsolete and in need of replacement, provides a unique opportunity to develop a shared communications system that will meet the needs of first responders throughout the Los Angeles region.

The Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communication System (LA-RICS) is a collaborative effort of law enforcement, fire service, and health service professionals with elected and appointed officials to implement a regional interoperable radio communication system.

The new system will allow interagency coordination and response to routine, emergency, and catastrophic events across the region among first responders as well as State and Federal agencies.

The LA-RICS project is progressing on several fronts.

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A Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) which enables the agencies to manage the system collectively was developed by a working group comprised of representatives from across the County and has since been adopted by eighty-three entities County-wide, with more in consideration.

In addition, approximately \$120 million in grant funding has been allocated towards the project.

Currently, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) transportation network is monitored and protected by three major public safety agencies – the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, and the Los Angeles Fire Department – which requires three separate communications systems be housed and maintained in and around MTA property.

MTA owns, operates, and maintains these three separate communication systems.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the MTA Board direct the CEO to:

1. Work with the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) joint powers authority (JPA) in developing a plan to replace the separate communications systems used by MTA and its major public safety service providers – the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, and the Los Angeles Fire Department – with a single system that is part of the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System
2. Report back during the September 2009 Board cycle and with quarterly updates/progress reports thereafter
3. Include in the September 2009 report an estimate of the potential cost savings and operational efficiencies of replacing MTA's current three systems with one interoperable system

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