

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: 2015-16 Web Transparency Report Card

Report Date: 3-10-16

Agenda Date: 4-27-16 MERA Governing Board Meeting

Response by: MAURKEEN CASSINGHAM Title: EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F-1, F-2, F-3 AS APPLICABLE TO MERA
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: _____

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-1, R-2, R-3 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered R-4 & R-5 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable. NOT APPLICABLE TO MERA
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 6-7-16 Signed: 

Number of pages attached — See new self-audit form submitted on 6-6-16



Marin Emergency Radio Authority [NERA]

A COUNTYWIDE RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

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Our Mission

NERA is a collection of public agencies formed in partnership to provide and operate a public safety radio system. As such, NERA provides a crucial communications delivery system that is interoperable between public agencies in order to efficiently and effectively facilitate critical (emergency) communications.

Vision Statement

NERA provides essential communications between and among local and regional public entities that serve all facets of public safety including Fire, Police, Public Works, Special Districts, Transportation and other Emergency Responders, to facilitate the protection of lives and property and enhance the safety of citizens, workers and visitors.

Core Values

The service and operational attributes of these Values shall serve as NERA's organizational code of behavior:

Leadership: *To set by example the standards we expect others to follow*

Integrity: *To maintain the highest ethical principles and act in a completely transparent manner that merits respect and confidence*

Diversity: *To respect the individual differences that provide a source of strength and enable a persistent team approach to identify and overcome obstacles*

Empowerment: *To encourage responsible decision-making at all levels*

Continuous Quality Improvement: *To continually strive to deliver the highest quality, responsive, timely, constantly improving public service to both internal and external clients*

Fiscal Responsibility: *To promote sound, fiscally-minded decision-making at all levels, without compromising service*

The Marin Emergency Radio Authority (NERA) is a Joint Powers Authority in Marin County, California, formed in 1998 to plan, implement and manage a countywide public safety and emergency radio system for the use of all member agencies. This system helps unify public safety response and ensures communication among individual agencies and departments.

The system of 17 base station radio and receiver sites provides regional or countywide radio communications among dispatch centers and mobile units throughout the county. [View a map](#) of the system.

NERA is governed by a Governing Board comprised of representatives from the County of Marin, all cities, towns, and fire districts in Marin, and other special



Marin Emergency Radio Authority [MERA]

WEB TRANSPARENCY CHECKLIST

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Contact Us	Audits	– Documents – MERA Finance
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Marin Emergency Radio Authority [MERA]

GOVERNANCE

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Member Agencies

Tiburon Fire Protection District
 Central Marin Police Authority
 City of Belvedere
 Town of Corte Madera
 Town of Fairfax
 City of Larkspur
 City of Mill Valley
 City of Novato
 Town of Ross
 Town of San Anselmo
 City of San Rafael
 County of Marin
 City of Sausalito
 Town of Tiburon
 Bolinas Fire Protection District
 Inverness Public Utility District
 Kentfield Fire Protection District
 Marin Community College District
 Marin Transit
 Marin Municipal Water District
 Marinwood Community Services District
 Novato Fire Protection District
 Ross Valley Fire Department
 Southern Marin Fire Protection District
 Stinson Beach Fire Protection District

Governing Board Members

Richard Pearce, *President* FC
 Todd Cusimano, *Vice President* PC
 Mary Neilan CM
 David Bracken CM
 Chris Morin PC
 Scott Shurtz FC
 Angel Bernal PC
 Pat Eklund CC/BM
 Tom Gaffney PM
 Doug Kelly PM
 Diana Bishop PC
 Matthew Hymel CA
 John Rohrbacher PC
 Michael Cronin PC
 Anita Tyrell-Brown FC
 James Fox FC
 Mark Pomi FC
 Todd Kidder PC
 Amy Van Doren D
 Krishna Kumar GM
 Thomas Roach FC
 Steve Metcho CC/BM
 Mark Mills FC
 Martin Langeveld CC/BM
 Kenny Stevens FC

Positions*

* Legend

CM – City Manager
 CA – County Administrator
 FC – Fire Chief
 GM – General Manager
 PC – Police Chief/Police Captain
 PM – Public Member
 D – Policy & Legal/Programs Director
 CC/BM – City Council/Board Member

Governing Board Members

Contact Information

c/o Novato Fire Protection District 95 Rowland Way
Novato, CA 94945
Phone: (415) 878-2690
Fax: (415) 878-2660

Terms of Office:

The Appointing Body of the Member Agency determines the term of the appointment of each member of the Governing Board.

Compensation: None

Reimbursement: None

Biographies: See Member Agencies Websites

Due to the size of the Governing Board and number of turnovers, continuous maintenance of biographies would be overly burdensome and costly for MERA.

Administrative Officials

MERA has no employees. MERA contracts for the following part-time positions:

Maureen Cassingham, Executive Officer
Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer, Next Gen System Project
Alex Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Next Gen System Project

Contact Information

c/o Novato Fire Protection District 95 Rowland Way
Novato, CA 94945
Phone: (415) 878-2690
Fax: (415) 878-2660
Email: mlc1948@aol.com

Compensation:

Contract hourly rate (Range \$35-\$100) established annually by Governing Board

Benefits: None