

**SILICON VALLEY REGIONAL
INTEROPERABILITY AUTHORITY**

STAFF REPORT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MEETING DATE: Wednesday April 6, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 5 (b) (ii) Overview of Interoperability efforts locally, regionally, statewide and at the Federal level

SUBJECT: A brief overview of the synergies between various levels of government and organizations regarding public safety voice and data interoperability

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION

The Board requested additional information regarding how the various local, regional and higher level entities that work to enhance public safety interoperability interface with each other.

Entities at different levels (local, regional, state/federal) share many interoperability goals and objectives. While most are closely related, efforts at a particular level may be more focused on the needs of that level of government.

A good analogy would be how law enforcement services are provided across the country. Law Enforcement agencies exists at the local (City) regional (County) State (CHP and others) and Federal (FBI, ATF, ICE, etc) levels. Certain functions, goals and objectives are common to all levels such as; the reduction of crime, response to emergencies and calls for service, arrest and detention of law violators and support of the criminal justice system.

Other functions and goals are specific to local needs such as enforcement of local ordinances, mutual aid coordination (regional), Freeway traffic enforcement and accident investigation (State), Inter-State crime investigation (Federal).

With law enforcement the existence of a higher level agency does not negate the need for the lower level agencies, instead they compliment each other and work collaboratively.

The enhancement of public safety interoperability works in much the same way. Local, regional, state and federal groups work separately on some issues and collaboratively on others. Efforts are synergistic but not overlapping.

Local Agency Initiatives

At the most basic level individual public safety agencies plan to enhance their own interoperability through methods such as; radio programming that includes other agencies frequencies, programming of dispatch consoles with other regional frequencies for patching purposes, the purchase of multi-band radios (or multiple radios on different bands), participation in training exercises that utilize interoperable radio equipment and participation in regional initiatives such as SVRIA. Local agencies would be responsible for the maintenance of their own radio voice and data systems and equipment.

Regional Initiatives

SVRIA - Regionally there is the opportunity for agencies to work collaboratively in a way that is cross functional (Police/Fire/EMS) and cross- boundary (multiple municipalities). An initiative and organization such as SVRIA works to enhance shared objectives, avoid duplication of effort, plan strategically, reduce costs where possible and support the implementation of larger scale wide-area systems and solutions. A JPA such as SVRIA would be responsible for the management of shared assets and shared systems within our region (for example ECOMM) but not responsible for individual agency assets nor for larger area systems such as Bay Area wide or statewide systems.

UASI or Other Regional Initiatives such as the proposed 10 Bay area JPA to enhance Interoperability – Organizations such as the Bay Area UASI or the proposed 10 Bay Area County JPA have the higher level task of integrating interoperability enhancement strategies across a broader area.

The UASI focus is on the best use of grant funding to support these initiatives, thus an emphasis on opportunities for multiple regions to work collaboratively across a larger metropolitan area are often investigated and coordinated.

The proposed 10 Bay Area County JPA is being established for the primary purpose of managing shared systems and resources to enhance public safety interoperability that are deployed across the ten counties. They would not be responsible for the management of systems or equipment that was deployed across only one municipality or a smaller region. They would, however, look for opportunities to benefit from collaboration and the integration and/or inter-connectivity of systems where appropriate.

State and Federal Levels -

State and Federal interoperability efforts are generally focused on state-wide or national strategic planning to include federal grant funding to support the realization of various interoperability goals. That federal funding is most often allocated to the states that in turn develop procedures for grant funds awards to state, regional and local levels of government. Both State and Federal entities are involved in grant monitoring and auditing of how funds have been allocated and used. The federal government is also

involved in setting standards for equipment and technologies that are used to enhance public safety interoperability.

RESOURCES

There are numerous resources available on the general topic of public safety interoperability. I will list a few links below that you may find of interest if you would like to better understand the details of various interoperability issues, initiatives and strategies nationally.

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0906ADVANCINGPUBLICSAFETY.PDF>

<http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/>

<http://www.nij.gov/nij/topics/technology/communication/interoperability.htm>