



Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority

PRESS RELEASE

October 22, 2020

SVRIA Announces a New Executive Director

During the Board of Directors meeting on October 22, 2020 the SVRIA approved the appointment of Eric Nickel to lead the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA). Director Nickel will begin his new duties on November 2, 2020.

The SVRIA entered into an interagency partnership with Regional Government Services Authority (RGS) to hire a new Executive Director for SVRIA due to the pending retirement of their current Executive Director Denise Sellers. RGS conducted a nationwide recruitment and after a six-month search, Mr. Nickel rose to the top of a competitive candidate pool to lead SVRIA into the next phase of the Agency's development.

Mr. Nickel comes to SVRIA from his most recent position as Santa Barbara's Fire Chief. Previously, he also served in leadership positions in the Novato Fire Protection District and as Fire Chief for the City of Palo Alto. His experience in the region and his familiarity with SVRIA were key factors in his success in the recruitment process. Throughout his career, Chief Nickel has been deeply involved with emergency communications issues and is keenly aware of the importance of a well-functioning, reliable system. With most of the SVRIA's Silicon Valley Regional Communication System's (SVRCS) infrastructure now developed and fully operational, it will be crucial for the agency to continue to maintain reliable communications across all partner agencies and to continue to update the technology and address member needs.

Consistent with the service agreement with SVRIA, RGS will assign Mr. Nickel to be responsible for day to day operations of the agency and support of the SVRIA Board of Directors. Questions may be forwarded to Director Nickel at (408) 615-5571 or at enickel@svria.org.