



Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority  
Board of Directors**

**Thursday, May 26, 2022  
Teleconference/Zoom Online Meeting**

1. Call to Order

➤ Vice Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm

2. Roll Call

Chair Mike Wasserman Santa Clara County Supervisor	Representing the County of Santa Clara	<b>P / A</b>
Vice Chair Laurie Smith Santa Clara County Sheriff	Representing the County of Santa Clara	<b>P / A</b>
Lydia Kou City of Palo Alto Vice Mayor	Representing the Northwest Cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos	<b>P / A</b>
Hung Wei City of Cupertino Council Member	Representing SW Cities of Campbell, Cupertino, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and Los Gatos	<b>P / A</b>
Jon Willey City of Cupertino Council Member	Alternate - Representing SW Cities of Campbell, Cupertino, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and Los Gatos	<b>P / A</b>
Russ Melton City of Sunnyvale Council Member	Santa Clara Cities Association Selection	<b>P / A</b>
Pam Foley City of San Jose Council Member	Representing the City of San Jose	<b>P / A</b> Arrived at 4:06 pm

Chappie Jones City of San Jose Vice Mayor	Representing the City of San Jose	<b>P /A</b>
Peter Leroe-Munoz City of Gilroy Mayor Pro Tempore	Representing the South County Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill	<b>P /A</b> Arrived at 4:13 pm
Rich Constantine City of Morgan Hill Mayor	Representing VTA	<b>P /A</b>
Richard Bertalan VTA, Chief Information Technology Officer	Representing VTA	<b>P /A</b>
Karen Hardy City of Santa Clara Council Member	Representing the Central Cities of Milpitas, Santa Clara, and Sunnyvale	<b>P /A</b>

➤ **Ten Directors Present. There is a quorum.**

3. Swearing-in of new Alternate Member

- Vice Chair Smith administered the Oath of Office for Alternate Lisa Matichak (City of Mountain View Council Member representing Northwest Cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos)

4. Public Comment and Closed Session

- No Public Comment.
- No public comments made to individual Board members to bring to meeting

5. Action on Consent Calendar

- Executive Director made one minor correction on item 5b: Remove the word “Special” for the minute approval for the March 24, 2022 Board meeting. The March 24 meeting was a Regular Board meeting.

- No Public Comment

➤ **Director Foley motions to approve consent calendar. Director Melton second. Rollcall Vote: 8 AYE, 0 NO. Motion Carries.**

6. Executive Director’s Report

a. Silicon Valley Regional Communications System (SVRCS) System Administrator Transition

- The System Administrator is the top technical and engineering position serving the SVRCS. The position is held by a County Communications radio system engineer and the position is 80% dedicated to serve the SVRCS under a service contract. The System Administrator tendered his resignation in order to work closer to family in Southern California. He accepted an engineering position with Motorola.

The Executive Director is working with the Technical Director from County Communications on an interim position as well as the long-term appointment of a replacement. The interim is in place and the Executive Director has reinforced the service-level expectations and service agreement.

- b. San Jose International Airport – Airport Operations potentially joining SVRCS
  - San Jose International Airport has expressed an interest in joining the SVRCS. They have an old legacy UHF radio system. They approached SVRIA seven, eight years ago, and at the time, the system wasn't built out, and they were told at the time that the focus was on getting public safety deployed. San Jose Airport is at a key decision point. They've already made investments in consoles and microwave installations that work on the SVRCS.  
As a reminder, they're much like the Santa Clara Stadium Authority. The airport is an enterprise agency under the City of San Jose. They are a San Jose department. We would treat them as a San Jose member. And obviously, that changes the radio count and costs for San Jose. There are operational pluses if they come onto the SVRCS. Right now, we have no interoperability capability with the airport operations, except law enforcement and crash fire rescue with San Jose Fire.
- c. Cybersecurity Update – Partnership with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for Critical Infrastructure Assessment
  - DHS will be here in early August. Staff will accompany them on multiple site visits to get a firsthand understanding of what they're looking at. Likely, when we are completed, staff will come back and brief the board in closed session given the sensitivity of the information of the vulnerability assessment.
- d. CalOES Grant-Funded Site on Wheels Update
  - Construction is complete and the radios are programmed. Last item to complete is radio testing and optimization. We have met the CalOES completion deadline. It is set up as a regional asset, and it will support SVRCS in the event a site goes down or there are large events that need additional radio infrastructure to support communications.
- e. Training Update – Programmers, Dispatchers and Field Users
  - Programmer Training for Radio Shop staff – completed on May 11 (in-person)
  - Staff, the Working Committee and the Technical and Project Teams are planning a tabletop training on June 21, 2022. The hope is that the training can be conducted in-person if COVID protocols and safety allow.
    - Routine and small incident operations
    - Large incidents
    - Pursuits entering and exiting the County including coordination with adjoining counties dispatch centers and CHP
- f. New Board Member Orientation
  - We will be scheduling some time with our new board members. Staff has a 30 to 45 minute PowerPoint, and then there is time for questions. The orientation is a primer to get up to speed as our new directors have noted that SVRIA is very technical.
- g. Mutual Aid Partner interest from the Menlo Park Fire District and United States Marshal's Service

- Staff continues to work with Menlo Park Fire to support mutual aid on the SB Interoperability Talkgroups. No update from the US Marshals.
- h. Two-year Subscriber Unit True-Up to start in July.
  - The True-Up is completed every other year and serves as the basis for the annual maintenance and operations budget for SVRIA. Agencies add and remove radios as their operational needs change. We will count every mobile and portable radio on the SVRCS.
- No Public Comment.
- Director Melton commented his appreciation on the critical infrastructure assessment focus and a closed session to identify and protect vulnerabilities. Director Melton also inquired about a policy to become a member or participant of the SVRCS, and any buy-in costs associated with becoming part of SVRCS. Executive Director responded that there is a policy after the IRS-Criminal Investigation unit sought to join SVRIA.
- General Counsel provided historical background and context on buy-in to reflect the capital costs. It was analyzed previously when Heather Plamondon was the Executive Director, and it was adopted by the working committee and board. The reason for that is exactly what Director Melton is saying, and that is we do need to reflect the capital costs that all of our entities spent, some in the millions to get into this system, and there needs to be a buy-in.
- A what if scenario was raised if an existing member added 2000 new radios to the SVRCS. Would that agency only pay the annual added maintenance and operations costs or would there need to be some consideration for added capital due to the high number of new radios and load on the system.
- It does not seem appropriate that there would be a buy-in cost with San Jose Airport (City of San Jose), unless it was an independent entity, and it probably wouldn't come under the policy, although this policy certainly gives the Board guidance on whether it's appropriate.
- Board and the Working Committee would need to analyze if a member or participating agency sought to add a significant number of radios, for example 1000 or more, to the SVRCS.
- Vice Chair Smith inquired if an enterprise district like the San Jose Airport would be different? Supports the exploration of the process and buy-in costs.
- Staff will continue to research and come back to the Working Committee and Board at a later date.

## 7. Action Items

- a. Annual Audit – Receive and Accept Annual Audit
  - Executive Director joined by SVRIA Auditor, Alex Hom from Moss, Levy & Hartzheim.
  - Presented highlights and noted the SVRIA is clean and without exceptions.
  - The FY20/21 Audit is much more of a typical SVRIA audit compared to last year's audit that accounted for previously built capital infrastructure, but the equipment had not been capitalized or depreciated.

➤ The Auditor spoke and noted they gave the Authority an unmodified clean opinion. Auditor looked at making sure all the processes that SVRIA did, like purchasing transactions, receipts, and made sure the balance sheet items were correct. Auditor found no significant findings. The controls seemed good for a special district your size. This year, no issues and clean audit.

➤ No public comment.

➤ Director Constantine motions to receive and accept the FY 2020/2021 Annual Audit. Director Leroe-Munoz second.  
Rollcall Vote: 10 AYE, 0 NO. Motion Carries.

b. Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) Legislation – Law Enforcement Agencies: Encryption and Radio Communications

i. Legislative Analysis and Options for Board of Directors consideration of SVRIA position if any

- Executive Director presented staff report and analysis of proposed State legislation including current status as SB 1000 moves through the Senate and Assembly.
- Operationally: Encryption is mostly complete with SVRIA Law Enforcement members and the County Sheriff who have transitioned to encryption on their primary dispatch talkgroups. There is one small community college district police department who is finishing encryption transition, less than 50 radios.
- SVRIA does not have a signed agreement with State DOJ as SVRIA is not a law enforcement agency and has no need to access the state records and identification database (CLETS).
- State DOJ has no regulatory authority over SVRIA. In the event personally identifiable information (PII) is transmitted over one of the South Bay Interoperability Talkgroups, there is no action the State could take against SVRIA.
- No matter the encryption status of SVRIA's law enforcement agencies, the Interoperability Talkgroups will always be available for shared, multi-agency regional communications.
- Public Policy: State legislative effort with legislation introduced by Senator Becker (Santa Clara/San Mateo) that would require unencrypting communication on police primary talkgroups. Personally identifiable information is the reason for encryption after an October 2020 memo from the State Department of Justice. This legislation would unwind a lot of the work SVRIA, and its members have done in the last three years. There is a cost to unencrypt radios, mostly staff time. There is a provision for reimbursement for unfunded State mandates. Staff is keeping a close eye on the reimbursement process and language.
- Executive Director noted that SVRIA was established as a technical joint powers authority (JPA). There has not been legislative advocacy action and SVRIA does not have the staff or resources to effectively analyze proposed legislation.

- General Counsel noted the Cities Association of Santa Clara County does take positions on state bills and has an internal process to evaluate and recommend positions.
- Executive Director outlined SVRIA's role to support member agencies elected officials and staff with technical analysis on the legislation so the agencies could make their own public policy position.
- Executive Director noted that one member's City Council had taken a support position and another member's City Council had taken an oppose position on the legislation. There is a desire to keep all members united in the delivery of services to their public safety and public service agencies within SVRIA.
- Executive Director noted there would be added workload on dispatchers and officers.
  
- Vice Chair Smith expressed concerns that the proposed legislation adds a real burden to law enforcement as well as a fiscal issue. It makes it difficult for the law enforcement agencies and that should be considered when anyone makes a decision on supporting or not supporting.
  
- Director Constantine asked about the implementation date. Executive Director noted it would be January 2024. Also asked if one talkgroup could be unencrypted and once encrypted. Executive Director answered that is the proposed plan with the legislation. The main dispatch talkgroup would be unencrypted and when PII needed to be researched then the encrypted talkgroup would be used. Any command or tactical talkgroups could still remain encrypted. Does SVRIA have the capacity for all talkgroups? Executive Director noted there is certainly capacity with all of the talkgroups built into the system.
  
- Director Melton said he reached out to the Executive Director after the March meeting to understand SVRIA's procedure for taking positions on legislation. He noted that Sunnyvale took an oppose position and Palo Alto took a support position. Director Melton supports the direction of the Executive Director and SVRIA's technical focus. Appreciates the efforts with Senator Becker's office and especially supporting the members of SVRIA, police chiefs and elected officials. 100 percent onboard with the proposed direction.
  
- No public comment.
  
- Director Melton motions to approve the staff recommendation. Director Constantine seconded the motion.
- No other Board questions or discussion
- Rollcall Vote: 10 AYE, 0 NO. Motion Carries.

#### 8. Future Agenda Items

- Vice-Chair Smith requested a report on the usage of the interoperability talkgroups. SVRIA has accomplished so much, and interoperability makes a big difference for radio

communications on significant, multi-agency incidents, planned events, and training. This group has made tremendous progress and it would be great to capture the data.

- Vice-Chair Smith requested the Executive Director bring back a review of the “buy-in” process and any policies related to agencies joining the system. The presentation request was for a later date.
- Director Constantine also expressed appreciation for the growth of SVRIA and providing radios for all public safety personnel. He noted that in his 25-year fire service career the firefighters went from one radio per fire apparatus to every member having their own radio. That improved firefighter safety and personnel accountability. SVRIA has come a long way and he looks forward to future success.

#### 9. Adjournment

- Vice Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:57 pm