

NGEN Executive Board Minutes
July 13, 2023

Participants	Agency	Representing	Present
David Sargenti (Chair)	Monterey County Regional Fire	District Fire Chiefs	x
Steve Adams (Vice Chair)	City of King	South County City Managers	
Sonia De La Rosa	County of Monterey	County of Monterey	x
Tina Nieto	Monterey County Sheriff	Monterey County Sheriff	x
Ben Harvey	City of Pacific Grove	City Managers South Peninsula	x
Vibeke Norgaard	City of Sand City	North Peninsula Cities	x
Steve Carrigan	City of Salinas	City of Salinas	x
Non-Voting Advisors	Agency	Representing	Present
Eric Chatham or Designee	Information Technology Dept.	Chief Information Officer	x
Lee Ann Magoski or Designee	Emergency Communications Dept.	Director of Emergency Communications	x
Gaudenz Panholzer – Ops Board Chair	City of Monterey – Fire Department	Emergency Communications Operations Board	x

Agenda Items:

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order by Chair David Sargenti at 1357 hours.
Roll Call of BOARD Members and Advisors –
 - Rollcall taken by Leslie Madrigal and attendees marked present above.
2. **Additions and Corrections to Agenda:** None
3. **Public Comment for items not on the agenda:** None
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - No minutes. First NGEN Executive Board Meeting.
5. **Approval of NGEN Executive Board Members** – Attachment 1 – **Action Item 23-001**
 Steve Paxton presented the following:
 - Request approval of the members listed below, currently designated as the Emergency Communications Executive Board to the same positions and same representation to the new NGEN Executive Board.

Voting Members

Fire Districts:	Chief David Sargenti (also the Chair of the Board)
South County Cities:	Steve Adams (also the Vice Chair of the Board)
County of Monterey CAO:	Sonia De La Rosa
Monterey County Sheriff:	Sheriff Tina Nieto
South Peninsula Cities:	Ben Harvey
North Peninsula Cities:	Vibeke Norgaard
City of Salinas:	Steve Carrigan

Required Non-Voting Members

Information Technology Department:	Eric Chatham (or Designee)
Emergency Communications Department:	Lee Ann Magoski (or Designee)
Operations Board Chair:	Gaudenz Panholzer (or Designee)

The Action Item 23-001 was approved with a signed Board Order attached.

6. Radio Project Update

Steve Paxton provided project updates on the following:

NGEN Phase-2 Upgrade

- ITD is working with L3Harris on the project.
- There will be some impact to agencies as we transition to Phase-2. Project will include a system release upgrade to the current system.
- As we identify the specific times and dates that is going to impact the agencies, ITD will communicate through County dispatch staff and contacts to mitigate any outages of the agencies.
- Phase-2 upgrade does not include the upgrade that we had talked about years ago, which was a full system upgrade, with full software and hardware replacement that we had looked at. We continue to look at that as a future item. We will understand what that cost is going to be. We will then come back to the Executive Board and talk about options to fund that tech refresh and upgrade. We will submit that upgrade project as a future CIP project item when we start budget planning for the next fiscal year.

NGEN ISSI (Interoperability Subsystem Interface) Gateway

- ISSI is the interoperability subsystem interface gateway, which is a device/solution that allows two disparate radio systems to connect to each other. The original objective of this project was to support the County Sheriff's office, subsequent to the purchase of their APX-NEXT radios, which is the latest and greatest radio manufactured by Motorola.
- It includes the ability to integrate LTE cellular signals into our radio platform for supported radios, so you could seamlessly roam between P25 radio system and the LTE cellular system to improve and enhance your coverage. The project was approved by the 9-1-1 Executive Board to purchase the ISSI gateway and then connect our L3Harris core, or basically our system to a Motorola core, to leverage the features of that LTE capability.
- As we have dug into this with L3Harris and Motorola, we have discovered that this is a very complex process to connect these two systems. We have looked at options. We are exploring options with Motorola and L3Harris as we speak. And there are some delays in implementing this because we want to make sure that we are pulling this off correctly. And because the implications could be large. We want to make sure we are doing this correctly.
- We have also discussed the possibility of connecting our system to the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA), which is our adjacent county regional system, that supports Santa Clara County. They have a Motorola system. We could connect our L3Harris core to their Motorola core, and then leverage the SmartConnect feature of their system, so that the APX-NEXT radios that the Sheriff's office has could then again, leverage that system. Again, there are some challenges to doing this, and technical challenges that we are working through. If we end up connecting with Silicon Valley Regional, there are going to be some agreements that must be passed back and forth between that regional system and our regional system, to accept the responsibility of connecting the two systems together. However, the benefits of doing that would be significant because we would not only be able to interoperate with Silicon Valley Regional, but we would also be able to leverage, the Motorola SmartConnect feature. We have feelers out with Motorola to collect facts and figures, and as soon as we have that information in detail we will come back to the Board, and present those options, strategies, and the timelines and so forth. There is more to follow on the ISSI gateway project.

Other NGEN Projects

Post Ranch Site Construction

- Post Ranch project was a construction project where we were going to replace the old shelter with a new, purpose-built concrete pad and a well-designed radio shelter.
- Because of the complexities of working with Post Ranch, we shifted that focus to co-locating with other services providers, such as AT&T in their existing shelter, as they also have a shelter at Post Ranch, which is a much cheaper option. We are in an early discussion phase right now. It would save us about \$270,000, for that site construction.

Mid-coast Radio Site

- The project is to provide radio coverage for Mid-coast Fire, should be complete around September timeframe. Site lease negotiations are in process for Big Sur Campground and Point Sur. This is a very complicated project. The least of which is because of the agreements that must be modified to add equipment at these locations. We are working through that. Point Sur involves dealing with Federal Government which a very slow process. Big Sur Campground involves a private firm.
- The Mid-coast radio site will provide radio coverage for Mid-coast Fire, which is down in the just north of Palo Colorado, on the Big Sur coastline. The idea would be to connect Mid-Coast Fire. to Point Sur site, then connect through a relay at the Big Sur Campground, and to Post Ranch. Their traffic would then pass back over their normal T1 or radio circuits back to County dispatch.
- We have completed the Glen Deven radio installation, which is the Mid-coast Fire's primary site. Our next site will be Post Ranch, Point Sur and then Big Sur Campground. Once this project is complete, we will be able to expand radio coverage for Law, Fire and AMR into that region. We would then have seamless coverage from that Glen Deven site down to Point Sur, and to Post Ranch. Because we have turned on Piedras Blancas, we would have a fairly seamless two-way radio coverage, especially for Law and Fire from the Southern border of Monterey County, to pretty close to the highlands of Monterey County. For those of you who have been paying attention to the problems in Big Sur coastline, that is a huge win for us to be able to provide that seamless coverage.

Lobos Ridge

- The project is tied to the completion of the phase-2 upgrade project that L3Harris is doing. The equipment is only compatible with phase-2.
- Once the phase-2 project is complete, we will then complete the Lobos Ridge project, bringing Carmel PD and Carmel Fire as well as benefiting our regional fire, and any agencies who operate in that Carmel Highlands area, Rio Road area to see some massively improved digital coverage.

(Continued Discussion) NGEN ISSI (Interoperability Subsystem Interface) Gateway

- You need a gateway on both sides to connect the systems together. The ISSI gateway that we purchased from L3Harris project was about \$250K. The same device that Motorola is selling that would fit into the Silicon Valley Regional system is \$2 million dollars. That is something that we are trying to figure out - why is there such an order of magnitude difference between the two devices.
- We do have a couple of options, one of which is connecting to a virtual core versus connecting to an on-premises, a physical core at the Silicon Valley site in Santa Clara County. The connection to Motorola would be more technically challenging. The distance is longer, the requirements for the fiber pipe between the two sites is going to be more significant.
- The Silicon Valley system is the ideal candidate for that because it is the adjacent system, if we address and mitigate any kind of technical risk to their system, which Motorola has assured us that any kind of risk to their system can be mitigated through configurations.

7. NGEN Website Walk-through: Online Demo

- Steve Paxton presented online demo on new NGEN website content and features.
- Radio inventory will be available on new NGEN website for agencies to view via secure site access.
- ITD will manage and approve access to the secure site access and provide procedure on access requests for website information for both county and non-county employees.

8. NGEN Operations Board Update: None. NGEN Operations Board has not officially met.

9. Future Agenda Items: None.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1422 hours.