

**NGEN Operations Board Minutes
July 18, 2024**

Participants	Agency	Representing	Present
Keith Boyd – Chair	Monterey County Sheriffs Dept.	Monterey County Undersheriff	X
Sam Klemek – Vice Chair	Salinas Fire Department	Salinas Fire Chief	X
Dave Hober	Monterey Police Department	Law Enforcement Agency 1 of 3	
Greg Greenlee	Monterey Fire Department	Fire Protection Agency 1 of 3	X
Doug McCoun	Marina Fire Department	Fire Protection Agency 2 of 3	X
Chris Bourquin	Del Rey Oaks PD	Law Enforcement Agency 2 of 3	X
Matt Harris	Big Sure Fire	Fire Protection Agency 3 of 3	X
Bill Mixer	Greenfield PD	Law Enforcement Agency 3 of 3	
John Murray	Salinas Police Department	Salinas Police Chief designee	X
Eric Chatham	Information Technology Dept	Chief Information Officer	X
Don Clark	Emergency Communications Dept.	Senior Dept. Systems Administrator	X

Agenda Items:

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Keith Boyd at 1501 hours.
Roll Call of Board Members and Advisors – Rollcall taken by Leslie Madrigal and attendees marked present above.
Additions and Corrections to Agenda – None.

2. **Approval of June 6, 2024 Minutes – Action Item – (Attachment 1) – Chairperson**

ACTION/MOTION: Sam Klemek made a motion to approve the June 6, 2024 meeting minutes. Seconded by Doug McCoun. All were in favor. None opposed.

3. **Motorola Estimate for L3Harris Replacement**

Thomas Montoya presented the following:

- Discussed possible alternatives to replacing the existing system infrastructure for NGEN installed nearly 10 years ago.
- Obtained quotes from L3Harris and Motorola for the system replacement. Thomas added the scope of work had drastically changed since having the sites and frequencies in place.
- Motorola Proposal Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM):
 - Cost: \$26 million for a forklift replacement with no financing.
 - Financing Option: \$38 million over 15 years at 5.07% (\$2.5 million annually).
 - Issues: Proposal does not address cutover process, additional costs, site modifications, or power requirements.
- Comparison of Motorola ROM with L3Harris:
 - Motorola's \$26 million ROM compared to a \$6.1 million L3 Harris core upgrade and future site/network upgrades.
 - Replacement of Master 5 radios is not anticipated in the near future.
 - Smart Connect Implementation: Part of the 5-year CIP plan.
- A \$30 million difference over 15 years between Motorola and current L3 Harris plans.
- No significant technology advantages with Motorola compared to existing L3 Harris plans.
- Discussion and decision needed before presenting to the NGEN Executive Board at next meeting. This includes CIP plans of core upgrade and analog overlay project.

Board discussion:

Sam Klemek acknowledged Thomas Montoya's prompt work and emphasized the importance of having all information available for making a decision. He added that based on the current situation, sticking with the L3 Harris plan seems to be the most sensible choice. Doug McCoun and Keith Boyd agreed, noting that the financials are clear, with no significant technological advantage offered by switching to Motorola. They also mentioned that the cost of the system has remained relatively stable over the past decade, which makes more sense to go with the L3 Harris option given the current budget constraints.

Eric Chatham added that there is no substantial technological or coverage improvement in switching systems at this time. He mentioned that if future developments or mandates emerged, they would reconsider, but currently, there is no reason to change direction. Sam Klemek asked if any upcoming mandates could impact the decision, but Chatham reassured that there are no anticipated changes that would necessitate a switch they were aware of.

Thomas Montoya reiterated that the L3 Harris core upgrade is a priority due to aging components, and it is a good time for a refresh. He confirmed that the decision to stick with L3 Harris for now is sensible, with the possibility to revisit if major technological changes occur.

Doug McCoun concluded with his support for continuing with L3 Harris, reflecting on past experiences with Harris systems. Chris Bourquin asked if a formal vote was needed, and Keith Boyd clarified that no action was required as the existing Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) would proceed to the NGEN Executive Board without changes.

4. NGEN Projects and Operations Report

Thomas Montoya presented the following:

Operational Updates

- **POM FESD New Party Agreement** – The new agreement with POM Fire has encountered delays due to issues with the buying fee. The matter will be revisited, possibly in August. New leadership at POM Fire is being brought up to speed by Chief Wilcox, and the updated agreement may be presented to the board next month.
- **Phase-II / Encryption Re-Key** - The investigation into rogue radio usage has been completed, identifying the source, and updating user IDs for radios that have been E-wasted. These radios will now deactivate immediately if turned on, preventing unauthorized use. Final planning with ECD is almost finished, and implementation is anticipated before the year ends, expected to take 30 to 40 days if everything proceeds as planned.
- **NGEN Radio Systems Access Administrative Policy** - Thomas discussed the NGEN Radio System Access Policy, noting recent meetings with DEM, ECD, and board members, including Chairman Boyd. The discussions covered the TICP and the potential revival of the Interop Committee. By the end of this week, a draft policy will be shared with those involved in the call. The draft will then undergo review, and efforts will be made to revive the TICP.
- **Emergency Responder Communication System (ERRCS) Draft Policy in Progress** - The draft is nearly complete. There has been a significant increase in inquiries related to new construction projects and system installations. To address this, templates are being developed to streamline the process and reduce inquiries by providing information online. Additionally, efforts are being made to create a workflow with the ServiceNow team to better manage these inquiries and the permitting process across various jurisdictions.

Projects Updates

- **NGEN Analog Overlay CIP – RFP in progress** - Collaboration is underway with DEM to finalize it. The plan is to present this to the NGEN Executive Board next month to secure the necessary funding.
- **Greenfield Water Tank Site Buildout** - The design for the Greenfield water tank site microwave backhaul is complete, and coordination with the FCC has been finalized. The fixed

proposal is expected to start early next week. While L3 Harris's proposal remains slightly high, efforts are underway to reduce the cost. Site construction will be managed in collaboration with Greenfield.

- **Lobos Ridge Site Buildout (Carmel PD)** - Still awaiting the Notice to Proceed (NTP) from SBA, the site owner. However, recent site visits by IT Radio technicians revealed that the tower has been cleaned up as promised, with Sprint having vacated the site. This created additional space for their systems. The ongoing site cleanup looks promising, and they hope to receive further updates from SBA soon.
- **Mid-coast (Glen Devon) Site** – ECD is working with mid-coast on a services agreement.
- **ITD Site HVAC and Power Standardization CIP Project** – This received BOS approval and funding, ITD team is working with vendors to scope and price power improvements for all radio sites. This includes implementing remote monitoring and control capabilities, upgrading power systems to be more redundant and resilient, and refreshing existing infrastructure.

5. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1426 hours.