



COUNTY of VENTURA

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
Terrence Theobald
Chief Information Officer

September 26, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

SUBJECT:

Public Hearing Regarding Adoption of a Resolution Establishing the Regional Radio Subscription Rates for the Regional Radio System for the County of Ventura for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, Effective October 1, 2023; and, for the Ventura County Chief Information Officer (“CIO”) or Designee to Execute Memorandums of Agreement with Regional Partners that will Subscribe to Utilization of the Regional Radio System, Subject to County Counsel’s Approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Adopt the attached Resolution establishing the regional radio subscription rates for the Regional Radio System for Ventura County for fiscal year 2023-2024, effective October 1, 2023.
2. Authorize the CIO, or designee to execute Memorandums of Agreement (“MOA”) with the regional partners that will subscribe to the utilization of the Regional Radio System, subject to County Counsel’s approval.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACTS:

Mandatory: No
 Source of Funding: 9712 - Revenue
 Funding Match Required: No
 Impact on Other Departments: None

SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND COSTS:

	FY2023-24	FY2024-25
Revenues:	\$2,600,322	\$3,467,096
Costs:		
Direct	\$2,600,322	\$3,467,096
Indirect-Dept	\$0	\$0
Indirect-County CAP	\$0	\$0
Total Cost	\$2,600,322	\$3,467,096
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0

FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for 4850 ITS Network Services				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$25,237,194	\$25,237,194	\$25,237,194	\$0
Revenue	\$25,237,194	\$25,237,194	\$25,237,194	\$0
Operating Gain/(Loss)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Includes lease payments, interfund and capital asset related expenses.

DISCUSSION:

In 2015, your Board approved a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) expressing support for the County of Ventura's plan to develop a countywide 700MHz regional radio network. This project was conceived to enhance multi-agency interoperability and provide greater channel capacity over the existing very high frequency (VHF) system. With your Board's support, Ventura County Information Technology Services (ITS) secured 56 frequencies within the 700 MHz spectrum. In 2016, ITS provided a five-year slow growth plan to the FCC, which was subsequently approved. Currently this plan provisions six sites to expand the 700MHz Regional Radio system: South Mountain East, South Mountain West, Hall Mountain, Laguna Peak, Torrey Hill, and Rocketdyne.

On June 20, 2023, your Board approved a contract with Motorola to complete the remaining sites. Since this network is specifically designed to provide a regionally integrated communications platform, ITS has communicated with the Sheriff's Office, Probation, District Attorney's Office, Fire Protection District (FPD), and all the incorporated cities within Ventura County regarding this future radio network. The cities of Oxnard and Ventura plan to have their Police Departments use the system, and other cities are also considering the use of this system.

The County has sixteen towers located throughout the region. It has been determined that the County partners will utilize three (3) of the towers within their geographic area. Therefore, a rate model has been developed to provide "Regional Access" and "Full Access" rate. The full access users must pay a rate that is the sum of the regional access rate, and the full access rate. The cost base for the rate calculation utilizes a 10-year average of expenses. The average is utilized to smooth the rate as depreciation, maintenance, and software update costs will begin in approximately year six of the projection. The proposed rates are calculated with only the known contracting entities as the subscribers. As new entities contract with the regional radio system, this will increase the number of subscribers and therefore reduce the rate. The rate will be adjusted either annually, or as outlined in the memorandums of agreement with the external partners. The methodology utilized to develop this rate has been reviewed and approved by the Auditor-Controller's Office. Thus, ITS requests that your Board adopt a resolution establishing the regional radio subscription rates for the County of Ventura for fiscal year 2023-2024 effective on October 1, 2023, and authorize the CIO, or designee, to sign MOAs with the regional partners that will subscribe to the utilization of the Regional Radio System, subject to County Counsel's approval.

ITS has agreed to waive the subscription fees for FPD for 12 months from adoption of the regional radio rate due to FPD's prior contributions towards the project in excess of \$4 million dollars. FPD currently has radios registered to the 700 MHZ system for test purposes and that would prompt charging the regional radio subscription rate. However, FPD purchased the Core for the 700 MHZ system (approximately \$4 million) and is upgrading the tower at their site at their expense. FPD also contributed \$375,000 towards the upgrade of the South Mountain site last year, specifically for the 700 MHZ system. Lastly, FPD is not fully committed to 700 MHZ at this time and this waiver will provide time to determine if they will proceed. FPD will need to decide if they will subscribe to the regional radio system and pay the rate or discontinue the use of the registered radios on the regional radio network.

Your Board's approval is also requested to authorize the CIO to sign the Memorandums of Agreement with the subscribing entities subject to County Counsel review and approval. Within the agreements, there will be an agreed upon number of radios that will be designated as stand-by radios. If the stand-by radios exceed five (5) minutes of usage each month, the subscribing entity will be billed for those radios.

In accordance with state law, the Office of the Clerk of the Board has issued a public notice for the public hearing on establishing the regional radio subscription rates for the Regional Radio System for Ventura County for fiscal year 2023-2024 effective October 1, 2023.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, General Services Agency – Procurement, and the Auditor-Controller's Office. If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 654-2744.

Sincerely,



TERRENCE THEOBALD
Chief Information Officer
Information Technology Services

TT/TY: dc

Attachments: Resolution
Exhibit 1 - ITS Regional Radio Rate Schedule