Agenda Report

June 1, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Information Technology

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A SITE ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (LA-RICS) AUTHORITY

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the following proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.25, the statutory CEQA exemption adopted specifically for the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS); and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute a Site Access Agreement with the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Authority to install network antennas on an existing City-owned radio communication tower, and provide necessary space for related equipment for a term not-to-exceed fifteen (15) years.

BACKGROUND:

The Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), a California Joint Powers Authority, was established in 2009 to engage in a region-wide cooperative effort to plan and establish a wide-area interoperable public safety communications network known as LA-RICS. When commissioned, the system would provide first and secondary responders with the technology to coordinate, in real time, their response during emergencies. The LA-RICS Authority is made up of two independent systems, the Public Safety Broadband Network Long-Term Evolution (LTE-data) and the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Systems.

The LA-RICS Authority has retained Motorola to design and construct a regional interoperable LTE-data system as part of the LA-RICS integrated system. The LTE-data system is a broadband wireless network technology that will provide day-to-day data communication service for individual public safety agencies and provide emergency

responders with high-speed access to life-saving information and services. The LTE-data system will provide a secure 4G data network to provide high speed video and data access that is exclusive to public safety response.

Motorola has identified one City-owned site (LTE site) where the installation of a network antenna system would support the LTE-data portion of the integrated system. The identified LTE site is at 3005 East Foothill Boulevard, APN 5752-015-900, where existing City-owned communication towers and structures already exist. At their own expense, the LA-RICS Authority will design and install the antennas on the existing City-owned communication towers and any associated equipment.

To implement the proposed systems, the LA-RICS Authority must enter into a Site Access Agreement (Agreement) with the City. The Agreement is necessary to allow Motorola and LA-RICS subcontractors access to City property to install and maintain the antenna systems, including equipment cabinets.

The proposed term of the Agreement is for fifteen (15) years and shall commence upon the execution of the Agreement. This agreement does not contemplate LA-RICS Authority providing compensation to access and use City-owned communication towers and property for the network. The plans and designs of the antenna systems will be reviewed and approved through the City's site plan review process.

Installation and equipment costs will be paid by the LA-RICS Authority and funded by the United States Department of Commerce - National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Broadband and Technology Opportunity Program ("BTOP") grant. The LA-RICS Authority has a congressionally mandated deadline to use the BTOP grant funds to build and implement the public safety broadband network across the greater Los Angeles region by September 30, 2015. Should the LA-RICS Authority not meet the deadline, there is no obligation to the City to fund or complete the installation.

By entering into the Agreement, the City will help support a regional communications system in the Los Angeles County region that will improve emergency communications for first responders. In addition, once the network is operational, the City will have the opportunity to subscribe to the secure 4G public safety broadband network for high-speed access to information and services. Costs for the City to use the network have not been established.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The installation of equipment to support a regional public safety broadband network supports the City Council strategic goal to ensure public safety by enhancing first responder operations and regional interoperable communications.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Approval and execution of the Agreement, and all work at the LTE site covered by the Agreement, is statutorily exempt from review under CEQA. Public Resources Code Section 21080.25, the statutory CEQA exemption adopted specifically for the LA-RICS Authority, exempts these activities as long as they meet the criteria set forth in the exemption.

As the CEQA Lead Agency, the LA-RICS Authority has determined the LTE site covered by the Agreement meets all of the exemption criteria. This determination is supported by substantial evidence in the custody of the LA-RICS Authority, and will be incorporated in relevant part into the Agreement.

Upon the approval of the recommended actions, Notices of Exemption for the site covered by the Agreement will be filed with the Registrar Recorder/County Clerk pursuant to Section 15062 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action and it will not have any indirect or support cost requirements. The LA-RICS Authority will design, install, and maintain the antennas and any associated equipment at their own expense.

There are no anticipated impacts to other operational programs or capital projects as a result of this action.

Respectfully submitted,

PHILLIP LECLAIR
Chief Information Officer
Department of Information Technology

Approved by:

MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager