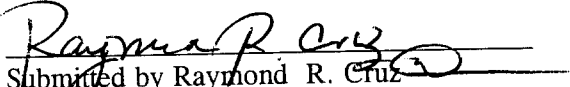


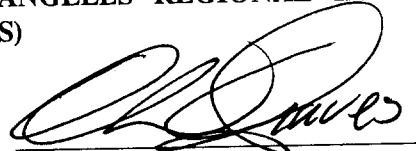


City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

September 6, 2011
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDER UPDATE OF THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (LA-RICS)


Submitted by Raymond R. Cruz
Public Services General Manager


Approved by Clifford W. Graves
Interim City Manager

I. SUMMARY

On August 2, 2011, the City Council added this matter to tonight's agenda for consideration at the request of Councilmember Santarina.

Once built and implemented, the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) will allow all emergency response agencies to communicate and share data instantaneously during an emergency or disaster. This item is intended to provide an update on the development of this system.

II. RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE and FILE report.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

In response to the devastating events of September 11, 2001, the National 9-11 Commission reported to Congress and the President the dire need for communications interoperability to remedy the communication challenges of responding agencies during emergency operations. In Los Angeles County, a steering committee was formed to develop and implement the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), to allow interagency coordination and response within Los Angeles County. At an estimated cost of \$700 million, LA-RICS would (1) provide a unified voice and data communications for all first responders in the county; (2) eliminate the cost and effort duplication needed to maintain separate systems; (3) provide instantaneous communication among agencies during a natural or man-made disaster; (4) support day-to-day communication needs of individual public safety agencies.

The city of Carson is a member of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that established the LA-RICS Authority, which includes a Board of Directors, to oversee the construction and management of this regional system. Membership

will assure the city of Carson has the opportunity to influence the system's development and funding plan (capital and maintenance). As Los Angeles County is a major stakeholder, residual costs may eventually be absorbed by the contract cities.

In July, on the advice of County Counsel, the selection of Raytheon to design and build the new system was canceled and the process begun anew. The process was viewed as flawed with possible improprieties during the selection phase. The Authority proposes to employ a three phase contract approach: (1) RFP for a telecom contractor to design, furnish and install telecom equipment; (2) RFQ for architectural and engineering services to provide studies and designs for new buildings, towers, access roads and address concerns on existing towers; (3) RFB for construction of sites. To reduce the time required for evaluations and negotiations, the Authority has developed a more concise procurement schedule. Approval of the new RFP is scheduled for September 1, 2011.

This delay has raised some concern among the business and security communities, as indicated by letters received by the City Council from groups such as the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Homeland Security Advisory Council. These groups fear that this delay will cost the region \$150 million in federal funding to establish this system, and become a financial burden on local governments. It is hoped that the procurement process will soon get back on track so that a quick and fair selection process can be implemented.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

VI. EXHIBITS

None.

Document7

Prepared by: Diane Wachi, Emergency Preparedness Analyst

TO:Rev032811

Reviewed by:

City Clerk

City Treasurer

<u>Administrative Services</u>	<u>Development Services</u>
<u>Economic Development Services</u>	<u>Public Services</u>

Action taken by City Council	
Date _____	Action _____