



County of Santa Barbara

Public Safety Dispatch Update

County Executive Office

October 1, 2019

Recommended Actions

- Receive and file an update from staff on the proposed Regional Fire Communications Facility (RFCF)
- Direct staff to focus planning efforts on one of the following locations:
 - Option 1: Expand the existing Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 - Option 2: Build a new communications facility at the Santa Ynez Airport
- Authorize staff to enter into negotiations with regional partners who wish to receive service from the RFCF
- Provide other direction as appropriate
- Determine this action is exempt from CEQA

Background



Previous Board Actions

- **July 27, 2017**
 - Received the report from DeltaWRX
 - Directed staff to conduct a more detailed analysis of each of the alternatives presented
- **August 28, 2018**
 - Directed staff to conduct an analysis as to the feasibility of “Option 2,” the physical separation of Law and Fire, collaborating with Santa Maria
 - Delay in returning to the Board was due to the intervening fire and debris flow disasters
- **November 13, 2018**

Received an update from staff requesting additional time to conduct the analysis

Board Direction

May 7, 2019

Return with:

- Construction and staffing estimates for **EOC Expansion**
- Construction and staffing estimates for **Parking Lot** adjacent to the existing Dispatch Center
- Identify a potential location **north of the Gaviota Tunnel**

Project Assumptions

- RFCF needs to meet “Essential Services” construction standards
- That as regional fire and emergency medical partners participate in the RFCF, they will contribute financially to the cost of running the facility
- All of the county’s fire chiefs have expressed support for the RFCF concept. To date, only the boards of the Montecito and Carpinteria Fire Districts have taken action authorizing negotiations with the County.

RFCF

Regional Fire
Communications
Facility

Project Assumptions

PSAP

Public Safety
Answering Point

- There will be two PSAPs; a primary and a secondary PSAP. The Sheriff will continue to operate the primary PSAP.
- The change will not impact the Sheriff's ability to operate the primary PSAP. The General Fund will not be negatively affected by this action.
- Should the EOC expansion option be selected, there will be no loss of space or functionality at the existing EOC

RFCF Construction Costs



Option 1 EOC Expansion

	Option 1
Building Construction	\$ 4,907,910
Site Improvements, Systems, and Equipment	3,753,351
Contingency	1,049,028
Subtotal	\$ 9,710,289
Market Escalation	665,568
Total	\$ 10,375,857

- 6,200 sq. ft. – \$700 per sq. ft. for building construction
- New Joint Information Center and Call Center will be an additional 1,363 sq. ft. at a cost of \$954,100 and will not be charged to the Fire District.
- Station 19 to be converted to sleeping quarters and additional conference room space

Option 1

EOC Expansion

Pros/Challenges

- **Pros**

- Adjacent to Fire Headquarters and Station 19
- Close proximity to County IT resources
- Access to generators and uninterrupted power source (UPS)
- Lower construction cost

- **Challenges**

- Lack of geographic separation
- Potential to disrupt EOC operations during emergencies
- Lack of proximity to affordable housing

Option 2 New RFCF at Santa Ynez Airport

Building Construction	
Site Improvements, Systems, and Equipment	
Contingency	
Subtotal	
Market Escalation	
Total	

Option 2	
\$	5,526,290
	4,898,869
	1,320,435
\$	11,745,594
	742,913
\$	12,488,507

- 7,177 sq. ft. – \$700 per sq. ft. for building construction
- This is a standardized template. Costs may vary if other locations are selected.

Option 2 New RFCF at Santa Ynez Airport Pros/Challenges

- **Pros**
 - Centrally located thus offering geographic separation and ensuring redundancy
 - Potential South County partners are also supportive of this location
 - Adjacent to existing Fire facilities (County Station 32 and U.S. Forest Service)
 - Proximity to more affordable housing will help assist with retention and recruitment of dispatchers
- **Challenges**
 - \$2.1M more to build than expansion of EOC
 - Need to build new facility
 - Potential issues with FAA regulations

Option 3 Dispatch Parking Lot

Option discarded as not feasible because:

- Disruption to current center due to construction
- Lack of geographic separation
- Loss of parking
- No savings in terms of construction costs
- Not desired by either Fire or Sheriff

PSAP Operations



Staffing

Current Public Safety Dispatch Center 37.33 FTE

Proposed Communications System

Regional Fire Communications Facility 21.00 FTE

Law Enforcement Only 28.33 FTE

Total 49.33 FTE

Ongoing Costs

	Current	Law Only Primary PSAP	RFCF Secondary PSAP
Sheriff	\$ 5,962,600	\$ 4,400,156	\$ --
Fire	766,500	481,636	4,330,715
Total	\$ 6,729,100	\$ 4,881,792	\$ 4,330,715

Comparison of System Costs

Law Only (Primary PSAP)	\$ 4,881,792
RFCF (Secondary PSAP)	4,330,715
Combined Communications System	\$ 9,212,507
Current Dispatch Center	6,729,100
System Cost Increase	\$ 2,483,407

Funding Issues

- Overall ongoing system costs will increase by over \$2.4M in either location.
- Funding from partner agencies will partially offset this amount. Depending on the number of partners, it is still probable that an estimated \$1.1M may not be covered.
- This amount will be funded by the Fire District if no other sources are available.
- Given it is two years away, funding plans can be developed to achieve the ongoing funding necessary.

Staff Recommendation

- Staff recommends **Option 2: New RFCF at Santa Ynez Airport**.
- This ensures dispatch redundancy in case of a regional disaster.
- If the EOC is selected, an additional space north of the Gaviota Tunnel should be considered to address the redundancy issue. Those costs have not been included in this evaluation.
- The Fire District has sufficient funding for the construction costs at either site.
- The ongoing system costs will increase by over \$2.4M at either location, which can partially be offset by other partners.

Next Steps



Next Steps

- Thorough analysis of selected site
- Develop a funding plan
- Determination of Sheriff's Dispatch upgrade costs
- Conduct a redundancy study, if necessary

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Commentary

- **Mark A. Hartwig**
Fire Chief
- **Bill Brown**
Sheriff-Coroner



Questions

