



Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services

383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1431 Fax (213) 633-5102

MINUTES

April 6, 2004 Meeting
802 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chairperson
Richard J. Rosenthal, CRE

Vice-Chairperson
Patricia G. Gray
Wendy M. Brogin,
A.I.C.P.
Walter P. Coombs
Shana E. Epstein.
Gordon Gray
Rodrigo A. Guerra, Jr.
Algird Leiga
Sharon Martinez
Deborah H. O'Connor
Kenneth D. Rozell
William Selditz
David Spence
Terri Tippit
Benjamin "Frank" Venti

Chairperson Rosenthal called the meeting of the whole to order at 9:05 a.m. and noting a quorum at 10:12 called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2004 AND MARCH 2, 2004 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Patricia Gray, seconded by Commissioner Selditz, the Commission unanimously approved the February 3, 2004 and March 2, 2004 Minutes.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Rosenthal introduced Commissioners Benjamin "Frank" Venti representing the Independent Cities Association and Terri Tippit representing the Second Supervisorial District.

PRESENTATION ON THE AC-1000 COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Sergeant Alfred Ortega, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department introduced his associates and provided a presentation on the effectiveness of the AC-1000. He discussed the problems local, state and federal law enforcement agencies had in communicating between each other during a crisis, and the formation of the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS) comprised of representatives from the California Highway Patrol, California Army National Guard, L.A. Area Fire Chief's Association, L.A. County Police Chief's Association, L.A. County Sheriff Department, L.A. County Fire Department, L.A. City Police Department, L.A. City Fire Department, California Office of Emergency Services and the United States Secret Service working in the County. The primary problem was the fifteen agencies have different radio frequencies and different wavelengths to communicate with their personnel.

LARTCS asked the military if they had a device that could coordinate the communication of various units on different frequencies which could be adapted to the civilian agencies' needs. The Sheriff's Department became the focal point of this project using the AC-1000 to coordinate activity between local, state and federal agencies. System tests were so successful the federal government is looking to install similar systems in twenty-five cities deemed as high terrorist targets. In addition to the AC-1000, the Sheriff's Communication Center has a mobile unit that can coordinate with various agencies at a particular crisis location to coordinate movement. This mobile unit was successful in recent rescue events. The Los Angeles Police Department and the

Los Angeles County Fire Department are seeking to secure several mobile units for their own departments.

Fifty-five cities and three counties have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to participate in this system at no additional cost to their agencies.

LARTCS's goal is to have the nine Southern California counties participate. LARTCS is also working with the CHP to provide mutual aid channels for VHF frequency agencies within the County. The cost to convert a channel is one million dollars per channel. Chairperson Rosenthal stated the directive mentioned in the video, by the Board of Supervisors in the 1990's to the Sheriff's Department and the County Fire Department to coordinate communications was a project and recommendation of the Commission. Chairperson Rosenthal inquired how much the mobile AC-1000 command vehicle costs. Sgt. Ortega stated that fully equipped it would cost \$400 thousand dollars per unit at this time and the installation of additional equipment is planned raising the cost.

Vice Chairperson Gray asked who owns the mobile unit. Sgt. Ortega stated the Sheriff's Department owns it and dispatches it wherever needed to assist agencies by coordinating communications. The mobile unit does not assume command of a situation. The responding agencies are in control, the mobile unit is the hub of communication between them.

Commissioner Brogin asked if school district police participate in this program in addition to the Metro and MTA. Sgt. Ortega stated they are in the process of incorporating them.

Commissioner Coombs asked if Homeland Security is involved in LARTCS. Special Agent Flath, United States Secret Service, stated that the Secret Service is now part of Homeland Security, is involved with LARTCS and represents all federal agencies.

Chairperson Rosenthal stated that the Commission would be extremely interested in assisting this regionalized activity.

Commissioner Venti asked how the system interacts with the ISIS System. Sgt. Ortega stated the ISIS system carries additional operational fees. A city that has it is unable communicate with another agency that does not and would have to rely on the Sheriff Department's Communication Center or the mobile unit to provide the link for communication.

Commissioner Selditz asked if the mobile units can connect with each other. Sgt. Ortega stated that multiple mobile units can connect for communication purposes in isolated areas.

Commissioner Tippit asked for about the radio adapter hookup with the mobile unit. Sgt. Ortega stated an agency provides one of its hand radios to be plugged into the AC-1000 and its frequency becomes part of the system for interaction between agencies.

Vice Chairperson Gray asked what additional expansions the Sheriff's Department Communication Center needs and how many more mobile units are needed to meet the County's needs. Sgt. Ortega stated that these are issues currently being reviewed.

Special Agent Flath stated LARTCS's intent is to organize a mobile command unit comprised of a number of the AC-1000 units to work with all MOU agencies. He stated the system can connect with the PAC-MER and ISIS systems to allow them to interact with agencies that do not have either of these systems.

Vice Chairperson Gray inquired about resistance to signing the MOU. Special Agent Flath stated the only resistance is from agencies' legal counsel reviewing the MOU.

Sgt. Ortega will provide staff with a list of signees to the MOU, a copy of the MOU and a list of LARTCS's executive members.

Chairperson Rosenthal thanked the presenters for an excellent presentation and requested any additional information that may be forwarded to Commissioners' appointing bodies. Chairperson Rosenthal proposed constructing a joint letter from the Commission and LARTCS to the appointing authorities and the cities that have not signed the MOU informing them of this program's benefits and providing a representative to discuss the enrollment in the program as a way of assisting LARTCS.

STUDY COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE STATUS REPORTS

Commissioner Wendy Brogin presented the mission statement for the Caltrans Integrated Projects and a draft letter to be submitted to the cities within the County. **On motion of Commissioner Coombs, seconded by Vice Chairperson Gray, the Commission unanimously approved the Caltrans Integrated Projects Mission Statement and the revised letter to be sent to the appointing authorities, the mayors and city managers of all the cities within the County.**

Commissioner Brogin will work with staff to make the recommended changes and mail out to all parties. Chairperson Rosenthal requested Commissioner Brogin place all the Commissioners on the mailing list so they are apprised of any items and the appropriate Commissioner(s) will attend any meetings involving their locality and Caltrans. Chairperson Rosenthal requested staff contact Commissioner Gray regarding the use of a USC intern; prepare an abstract of all projects accepted by Caltrans and update the LGS brochure.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR A FUTURE MEETING)

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Rosenthal
Patricia Gray
Wendy Brogin
Walter Coombs
Kenneth Rozell
Debby O'Connor
William Selditz
Terri Tippit
Frank Venti

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Shana Epstein
Angela Gibson
Gordon Gray
Rodrigo A. Guerra, Jr.
Algird Leiga
Sharon Martinez
David Spence

STAFF

Gene Romig
Ken Wales

GUESTS

Lieutenant M. L. Mielke, Los Angeles Communication Center, California Highway Patrol
Mark Flath, Special Agent, United States Secret Service
Captain Susan Kopperud, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Lieutenant Jeff Donahue, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Sergeant Alfred Ortega, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
David G. Liu, City of Diamond Bar