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Anne Kronenberg
Executive Director

February 11, 2013

The Honorable Alex Padilla
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Bay Area Wireless Enhanced Broadband (BayWEB) and Next Generation 9-1-1

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The City and County of San Francisco urges support from the State of California for completion of two new projects to modernize public safety communications in the Bay Area.

BayWEB

Bay Area Wireless Enhanced Broadband (BayWEB) is a wireless data network under development for public safety agencies throughout the Bay Area. BayWEB will allow police, firefighters, and other first responders in the field to share texts, download photos of suspects or lost children, view video of incident scenes and use new mobile apps to help them work smarter. As a dedicated, hardened network just for public safety, BayWEB is expected to function when commercial cell networks fail during a disaster or even during large public events. In addition, statewide public safety agencies such as the California Highway Patrol, Cal Fire, Cal Trans, and others would be able to operate on the BayWEB network.

BayWEB is governed by the Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communications System (BayRICS) Joint Powers Authority (JPA). BayRICS member cities and counties include: the City and County of San Francisco, City of Oakland, City of San Jose, San Mateo County, Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Santa Clara County, and others, as well as the California Technology Agency (CTA). The project is funded through a Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) federal stimulus grant, as well as by matching funds from the project vendor, Motorola.

To date, BayRICS has established a regional governance structure, negotiated a master agreement with a unique public-private model for system operations, negotiated a complex series of 12 site use agreements with Bay Area cities and counties covering 128 radio sites, and contributed over 10,000 staff hours and nearly \$1 million outside of the BTOP grant to complete the complex design, engineering, and environmental reviews required to evaluate potential radio sites and otherwise manage the project.

BayWEB is currently on hold while the newly-created federal First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) establishes standards for building a nationwide public safety data network. We anticipate that FirstNet will provide guidance this month on how to move forward with BayWEB. We urge the State of California's support for allowing BayWEB to proceed as a model project for the nationwide public safety broadband network and as a test-bed for new public safety applications developed in the Bay Area.

BayWEB has worked closely with CTA, as a BayRICS member, on BayWEB project planning—we would welcome the opportunity to expand this relationship with CTA to contribute our expertise to statewide planning for FirstNet. We urge CTA to make State and Local Implementation Grant funds (newly released by the National Telecommunications and Information Agency on February 6) available to BayWEB to continue our planning efforts in coordination with CTA.

Next Generation 9-1-1

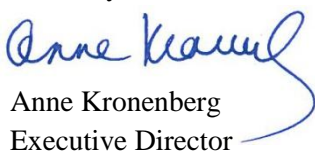
San Francisco's extensive work on digital information sharing for public safety through the BayWEB project uniquely positions our City to provide a model to California with Next Generation 9-1-1. The ability of our residents to provide text, and eventually photos, and videos to our dispatch center could substantially enhance the ability of our first responders to effectively answer calls for law enforcement, fire, and medical services. For example, a parent who loses their child at a large public event could transmit their child's photo to 9-1-1, which would then be sent securely over BayWEB to mobile devices belonging to police officers in the field, in order to more quickly identify the lost child and reunite her with her parents.

DEM serves as the public safety answering point (PSAP) for the entire City and County of San Francisco, and provides dispatch services to the Police Department, Fire Department, and Sheriff. We respond to an average of 2,800 calls per day to 9-1-1, and 1 million 9-1-1 calls per year. We have been an industry leader in accepting wireless 9-1-1 calls. Last year, we answered 9-1-1 calls in 37 different languages (and have the capacity to respond in 175 languages). The ability to send digital information such as texts or photos could particularly help our residents who have limited English proficiency or who are hearing/speech impaired, and who may provide emergency information more easily through photos or simple texts.

Because of our advanced work on public safety data communications through BayWEB, as well as our large and diverse urban population with high use of digital communications, San Francisco urges CTA to make San Francisco a pilot for Next Generation 9-1-1. We request that CTA provide local governments with more information about the framework they intend to follow for statewide implementation of this project. We further request that CTA provide adequate funding through the State Emergency Telephone Number Account (SETNA) for upgrades to Next Generation 9-1-1.

We believe that the rapid evolution of Next Generation 9-1-1 and public safety broadband puts the Bay Area in a unique position to lead the development of these critical public safety tools. San Francisco stands ready to work with you to improve emergency communications for San Francisco's residents and first responders, and to provide a model for the rest of California and the nation.

Sincerely,


Anne Kronenberg
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Jean Fuller
The Honorable Anthony Cannella
The Honorable Ellen Corbett
The Honorable Kevin DeLeon
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The Honorable Jerry Hill
The Honorable Steve Knight
The Honorable Fran Pavley
The Honorable Lois Wolk
The Honorable Roderick D. Wright
The Honorable Mark Leno
Ms. Kellie Smith, Chief Committee Consultant