

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 99092073

Project Title: MERA Next Generation System

Lead Agency: Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA) Contact Person: Ernest Klock
 Mailing Address: 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 304 Phone: 415-473-4368
 City: San Rafael Zip: 94903 County: Marin

Project Location: County: Marin and Sonoma Counties City/Nearest Community: See Figure 1 in attached NOC
 Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N / _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W Total Acres: See Table 1 in NOC
 Assessor's Parcel No.: See Table 1 in NOC Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____
 Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: State Highway 101 Waterways: None
 Airports: None Railways: None Schools: None

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) 99092073 Draft EIS Other: _____
 Mit Neg Dec Other: _____

SEP 06 2019

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: Construction Application

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ Transportation: Type _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: Mineral _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Educational: _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Recreational: _____ Other: Radio Communication Tower, Antennae and Small Building
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: Radio Frequency, Tribal Cultural Resources

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

See project website: <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/pw/divisions/projects/mera>

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

State Clearinghouse Contact:

(916) 445-0613

State Review Began:

9 - 6 - 2019

SCH COMPLIANCE

10 - 21 - 2019

Project Sent to the following State Agencies

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources
 _____ Boating & Waterways
 _____ Central Valley Flood Prot.
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Comm
 _____ Colorado Rvr Bd
 _____ Conservation
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDFW # <u>3, M</u>
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cal Fire
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Rec
 _____ Bay Cons & Dev Comm.
 _____ DWR</p> <p>CalSTA
 _____ Aeronautics
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHP
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans# <u>4</u>
 _____ Trans Planning</p> <p>Other
 _____ Education
 _____ Food & Agriculture
 _____ HCD
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OES</p> <p>State/Consumer Svcs
 _____ General Services</p> | <p>Cal EPA
 _____ ARB: Airport & Freight
 _____ ARB: Transportation Projects
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARB: Major Industrial/Energy
 _____ Resources, Recycl. & Recovery
 _____ SWRCB: Div. of Drinking Water
 _____ SWRCB: Div. Drinking Wtr # _____
 _____ SWRCB: Div. Financial Assist.
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Wtr Quality
 _____ SWRCB: Wtr Rights
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg. WQCB # <u>2</u>
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Sub Ctrl-CTC _____</p> <p>Yth/Adlt Corrections
 _____ Corrections</p> <p>Independent Comm
 _____ Delta Protection Comm
 _____ Delta Stewardship Council
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAHC
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Comm
 _____ Santa Monica Bay Restoration
 _____ State Lands Comm
 _____ Tahoe Rgl Plan Agency</p> <p>Conservancy
 _____ Other: _____</p> |
|--|---|

Please note State Clearinghouse Number (SCH#) on all Comments

SCH#: 1999092073

Please forward late comments directly to the Lead Agency

AQMD/APCD 2/23

(Resources: 9, 7)

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>4</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>2</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>3</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date September 6, 2019 Ending Date October 21, 2019

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____ Applicant: _____
 Address: _____ Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Contact: _____ Phone: _____
 Phone: _____

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 9/6/2019

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

SUMMARY FOR ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL

SCH # 99092073

LEAD AGENCY: Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA)

PROJECT TITLE: MERA Next Generation Radio Communication System

PROJECT LOCATION: Marin and Sonoma Counties

Project Description

The Marin Emergency Radio Authority's (MERA) proposed project is the Next Generation Radio Communication System, an upgrade to Marin County's existing emergency radio communications system that will improve the County's emergency communication capabilities during daily public service and critical emergencies. The proposed project would replace equipment at currently operating communications sites as well as install telecommunications facilities (towers, microwave dishes, antennae, radio shelter and emergency power generation) at new sites where public and private infrastructure already exists. In total, 10 existing sites would be upgraded, eight new sites would be introduced, and five existing sites would be decommissioned.

The existing MERA system currently includes 16 active communication sites. The existing sites to be retained are: Marin Civic Center, Big Rock Ridge, Mt. Tamalpais, Mt. Barnabe, Point Reyes Hill, Dollar Hill, San Pedro Ridge, Mt. Tiburon, Sonoma Mountain and Stewart Point. The five sites to be decommissioned are Forbes Hill in San Rafael, Mt. Burdell in Novato, Mill Valley City Hall, Mill Valley Public Safety Building and Bay Hill Road in Sonoma County. The eight new sites to be added are the Emergency Operations Facility (Prime Site), Tomales (Parks Ranch), Coyote Peak (Walker Creek Ranch) Skyview Terrace (San Rafael), Muir Beach Water Tank, Wolfback Ridge, Mt. Burdell OTA, and Mill Valley Water Tank. The Next Gen System will have a total of 18 communication sites, two more sites than the existing system. Seventeen of the sites are located in Marin County and one site is in Sonoma County (See Figure 1 in NOC).

Significant or Potentially Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed Next Gen Project would result in significant unavoidable visual/aesthetic impacts at five of the new communication sites: Skyview Terrace, Tomales, Coyote Peak, Muir Beach Water Tank and Mill Valley Water Tank. Visual impact mitigation measures such as fencing, landscape screening and painting would soften the visual impact, but would not reduce the impacts to less-than-significant.

The cultural resource analysis and tribal consultation found that the limited foundation excavations required for new towers and radio buildings could have an impact on currently unknown cultural and tribal resources at all sites. Proposed mitigation measures would require work to be halted if cultural artifacts or human remains were encountered. Any substantial change in design of project would require further consultation with tribal representatives, and a

tribal monitor with stop work authority will be present during excavation. **Implementation of mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less-than-significant.**

The biological resource analysis found that the proposed project could have a potential significant impact on special status plant species at two sites Stewart Point (Marin Manzanita) and Mill Valley Water Tank (Oakland star-tulip), and potential impact on American badger, red-legged frog and burrowing owl at the Tomales site, and potential impact on nesting birds at Point Reyes Hill, Dollar Hill, Mt. Tiburon, Tomales, Muir Beach, and Mill Valley water tank sites. All potential impacts to special status plant and animal species and nesting birds can be mitigated by pre-construction surveys designed to identify the presence of special status species and erection of temporary fencing including limitations on construction during the wildlife nesting season. **Implementation of recommended mitigation would reduce all potential impacts to special status species to less-than-significant.**

Potential construction impacts on air and water quality, and noise will be avoided by implementation of Best Management Practices and adopted community noise standards.

The proposed project was found to comply with all adopted standards for general public radio frequency exposure through elevated placement of antennas on towers and fencing of communications sites. Potential radio frequency exposure impacts to maintenance workers **will be mitigated to less-than-significant** by the posting of warning signs at the Prime Site (EOC), Civic Center and Mt. Tiburon sites.

Potential seismic impacts will be avoided by requiring design level-geotechnical reports prior to new construction and compliance with California's adopted seismic building and construction standards.

Potential Areas of Controversy

Environmental concerns raised during consultation with Responsible and Trustee agencies and the general public included:

- Aesthetic changes associated with modifications to existing towers
- Aesthetic changes associated with the construction of new towers
- Impacts to biological resources while improving the existing road to Coyote Peak
- Alterations to the significance of historic resources at three sites
- Possible alterations to tribal cultural resources at 13 sites
- Radio frequency emissions within controlled spaces with worker access
- Radio frequency emissions in uncontrolled spaces with public access
- Consistency with coastal development standards

Responsible and Trustee Agencies

California Coastal Commission, California Department of Transportation, California Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control District, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, California Native American Heritage Commission, and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.