



# REPORT TO COUNCIL

## City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604  
www. CityofSacramento.org

Consent Report  
**May 15, 2007**

**Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council**

**Title:** Establish a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the City's 800 MHz Radio Re-Banding Project (AB96)

**Location/Council District:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Adopt a **Resolution** to 1) establish a new CIP to support the City's Radio Re-Banding Project (AB96); 2) authorize the City Manager to hire a limited term employee for up to one year to support this project; 3) accept external funding in an amount not to exceed \$667,331 through the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) contracted vendor, Sprint Nextel; 4) establish a revenue and expenditure budget in an amount not to exceed \$667,331 for the reimbursement from Sprint Nextel (Fund 248) for AB96; and 5) authorize the City Manager to execute an Inter-Governmental Agreement with the County of Sacramento to coordinate regional project planning on behalf of the City.

**Contact:** Karl Rosander, Information Technology Manager, 808-8262

Xavier Covarrubias, Information Technology Supervisor, 808-8512

**Presenters:** N/A

**Department:** Information Technology

**Division:** Administration

**Organization No:** 1311

### **Description/Analysis**

**Issue:** As part of a nationwide federal initiative to reduce radio interference to public safety communications, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has ordered the 800MHz radio spectrum be re-banded/reconfigured to protect public safety communications. This change will affect nearly every 800 MHz Public Safety licensee in the nation, and may impact other 800 MHz licensees.

The FCC adopted stringent new rules that require entities that cause interference in the 800 MHz band to correct such interference. On February 7, 2005, Nextel (now Sprint Nextel) announced their acceptance of the FCC's 800 MHz reconfiguration order and agreed to fund \$2.8 billion dollars to reconfigure the 800 MHz spectrum throughout the country.



**Policy Considerations:** This recommendation is in accordance with the FY-2006/07 Approved Budget Document's Strategic Planning Process. In particular, this recommendation is consistent with the sustainable budget concept for Public Safety.

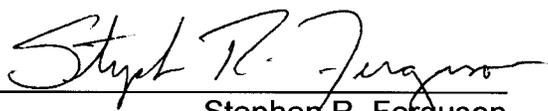
**Environmental Considerations:** This project has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15031(b) of the CEQA Guidelines. Projects exempted under Section 15031(b) consist of minor alteration or repair of existing facilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services, which include telephone and other communication systems.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** In an effort to comply with the federal initiative to re-band all 800 MHz public safety radios, staff requests City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the establishment of the CIP and authorizing the staffing of a limited term employee for up to one year to support the administration, project management, and quality assurance of the City's Radio Banding Project.

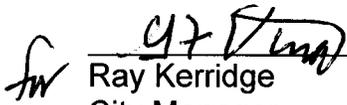
**Financial Considerations:** No additional funding is requested. The costs for the actual radio re-banding work and a limited term employee will be reimbursed by Sprint Nextel. As such, a revenue and expenditure budget in an amount not to exceed \$667,331 will be established in AB96. This budget amount is an estimate and may change as specific project tasks are developed in more detail.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):** N/A.

Respectfully Submitted by: Ignacio Estevez, Program Manager

Approved by:   
Stephen R. Ferguson  
Chief Information Officer

Recommendation Approved:

  
Ray Kerridge  
City Manager

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## Attachment 1

### Background

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) realized they had a problem in the late 1990's when the number of interference complaints increased at the same time that Nextel services expanded. The problem was traced to a "near/far" scenario in which a local government radio operating near a high powered Nextel site, but far from its host site, experienced interference from the nearby Nextel site. The FCC solicited input from various groups to determine the best course of action. The result was the 800 MHz reconfiguration order. Pursuant to the Order, certain licensees of 800 MHz channels used in public safety or other systems must relinquish their existing channels and relocate their systems to other licensed channels. In addition, Sprint Nextel must relinquish some of its existing channels and must provide and pay relocation costs to enable affected licensees to relocate their systems onto "Replacement Channels" and reconfigure their systems so that they are "Comparable Facilities." The reconfiguration of the 800 MHz spectrum will create a contiguous block of reserved frequencies for local government services and a separate contiguous block for Sprint Nextel services.

On February 7, 2005, Nextel announced the acceptance of the FCC's 800 MHz reconfiguration order and agreed to fund \$2.8 billion dollars to reconfigure the 800 MHz spectrum throughout the country.

The FCC has designated an independent Transition Administrator (TA) to administer the re-banding effort through the country. Reimbursement and payment for any re-banding work will be coordinated through the TA. The TA will establish a re-banding schedule for each region, identify replacement frequencies, approve re-tuning agreements, consult with regional committees, and mediate disputes between licensees and Sprint Nextel.

As Administrator of the Sacramento Regional Radio Communications System (SRRCS), the County of Sacramento is the lead agency that will coordinate the reconfiguration efforts for all local governmental agencies operating on the system. The County of Sacramento will also coordinate with the TA in developing a Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement (FRA) that will assist them in coordinating a regional re-banding schedule and negotiating costs that will be funded by Sprint Nextel.

Attached to this report is an Inter-Governmental Agreement between the City and the County of Sacramento that authorizes the County to represent the City in coordinating regional project planning on behalf of the City. The City will work directly with the County and TA for project costs reimbursement.

Only authorized licensed technicians are authorized to conduct the radio re-banding, reprogramming and replacement. Motorola is the primary vendor contracted and funded by Sprint Nextel to perform the actual radio reconfiguration work. The estimated time required to complete all radio re-banding throughout the City is one year and is

scheduled to begin in July 2007.

The estimated budget and funding requirement to complete the project is \$667,331. This amount is an estimate and will change as specific project tasks are developed in more detail. This includes the reconfiguration of over 2619 radios throughout the City. The scope of the project will include detailed project management, quality assurance, and testing.

**Attachment 2**

**RESOLUTION NO.**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

**ESTABLISH A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE CITY'S 800MHZ RADIO RE-BANDING PROJECT (AB96)**

**BACKGROUND**

- A. As part of a nationwide federal initiative to reduce radio interference to public safety communications, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has ordered the 800MHz radio frequency be re-band/reprogrammed to protect public safety communications.
- B. The FCC adopted stringent new rules that required those causing interference in the 800 MHz band to correct such interference. On February 7, 2005, Sprint Nextel announced their acceptance of the FCC's 800 MHz reconfiguration order and agreed to fund \$2.8 billion dollars to reconfigure the 800 MHz spectrum throughout the country.
- C. The County of Sacramento will coordinate with Sprint Nextel (via the Transition Administrator) to lead the reconfiguration effort for all local agencies operating on the Sacramento Regional Radio Communications System. County of Sacramento will represent the City as well other local governmental agencies in coordinating the project work plan and activities for this region.
- D. The estimated time required to complete the City's Radio Re-Banding Project is 16 months.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. The City Manager, or authorized designee, is hereby authorized to establish a Capital Improvement Program (AB96) to support the Radio Re-Banding Project.
- Section 2. The City Manager, or authorized designee, is hereby authorized to staff a limited term employee for a period not to exceed 16 months to provide technical support to the Radio Re-Banding Project.
- Section 3. The City Manager, or authorized designee, is authorized to receive funding and/or reimbursement by Sprint Nextel for the City's 800 MHz radio re-banding efforts.
- Section 4. The City Manager, or authorized designee, is hereby authorized to

establish a revenue and expenditure budget for AB96 in an amount not to exceed \$667,331 (Fund 248) for reimbursement from Sprint Nextel.

Section 5. The City Manager, or authorized designee, is authorized to execute an Inter-Governmental Agreement with the County of Sacramento for the County to coordinate project planning on behalf of the City.

