



CITY OF MURRIETA

FILE

August 25, 2014

Riverside County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 829
Riverside, CA 92502

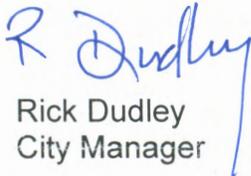
Subject: 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report: Impact of AB109 upon Riverside
County Municipal Police Agencies

Dear Riverside County Grand Jury:

Attached is the City of Murrieta Police Department's review and response to 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report – Impact of AB 109 upon Riverside County Municipal Police Agencies. This report has been completed in response to your request dated June 17, 2014.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at 951.461.6010.

Very truly yours,


Rick Dudley
City Manager

Enclosures

**Murrieta Police Department's
Review and Response to 2013–2014 Grand Jury Report -
Impact of AB 109 upon
Riverside County Municipal Police Agencies**

Background

On June 19, 2014, the City of Murrieta received the 2013 – 2014 Grand Jury Report – Impact of AB-109 upon Riverside County Municipal Police Agencies. The Grand Jury Report covered five specific areas related to how Riverside County municipal police agencies have chosen to combat the impacts of AB-109 since October 1, 2011. Specifically, the report covered the Post – Release Accountability and Compliance (PACT) Program, Data Sharing Supervised Offender Tracking, Probation Officers at Jails, the Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) Project, and Transitional Housing.

The Grand Jury Report made five specific recommendations, of which, only one applied to the City of Murrieta. The specific recommendation stated, “Municipal police agencies in Riverside County without direct Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) capability shall develop and implement, a consistent communication system to ensure reliability and seamless coverage between the cities, the Sheriff’s Department, and the safety agencies of other counties” (p. 10).

Response

The Murrieta Police Department has monitored the Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) Project since early 2010. Early meetings with the Project steering committee provided preliminary information related to the cost and overall effectiveness of the new system. Although the system promised seamless interoperability between participating agencies, it was still hypothetical due to the infancy of the Project.

The PSEC Project was started in March 2007, and as expected with any Project of this scale, the Project experienced numerous unexpected challenges. Most notably, was the challenges faced with working through site acquisition requirements of federal agencies for communication towers. Originally, it was anticipated the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department would switch their communications system to the new PSEC Project in December 2012; however, other radio problems identified by the Sheriff’s Department delayed implementation until January 2014.

On February 20, 2014, Murrieta Police Chief Sean Hadden instructed his staff to begin looking at the possibility of transitioning to the PSEC Project. This was largely due to the poor coverage and limitations of the Murrieta Police Department’s current radio system, as well as the need to have seamless radio communication with the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department and other

public safety agencies. Since May 2014, the Murrieta Police Department has participated in weekly PSEC Project meetings, and is the municipal law enforcement agency in Riverside County closest to migrating to the PSEC Project.

The largest hurdle to joining the Project is the cost of the special tri-band radios required for the system. These tri-band radios cost over five times the amount of the traditional single-band radios. It is estimated the Murrieta Police Department would need to spend approximately \$1.3 million dollars to replace all of its current radios.

The City of Murrieta is surrounded by cities that contract with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services and county areas patrolled by sheriff deputies. It is common for each agency to assist each other with personnel and special equipment during investigations that cross city boundaries or large scale events. Radio communication between the Sheriff's Department and Murrieta Police Department is currently accomplished through a patch between the two radio systems. Unfortunately, patches between the two radio systems have been mostly unreliable.

Efforts to Date

In anticipation of a potential move to the PSEC Project, the Murrieta Police Department has already secured two Homeland Security Grants to purchase 24 handheld radios that are compliant with the PSEC Project. Additionally, 14 PSEC Project compliant radios have been installed in 14 new police vehicles purchased since 2013.

The Murrieta Police Department has also secured the radio frequencies for the majority of law enforcement agencies in Riverside County. This allows the Murrieta Police Department to program these frequencies into the new PSEC Project compliant radios and have direct radio communication with these agencies, regardless of radio frequencies or migration to the PSEC Project.

The Murrieta Police Department is also the only Riverside County law enforcement agency that has direct radio communication capabilities with the U.S. Border Patrol. In 2011, the Murrieta Police Department partnered with the Murrieta Border Patrol Station to install a Border Patrol radio consolette at the Murrieta Police Department. This allows Murrieta police officers to have direct radio communication with Border Patrol agents during emergencies or large-scale events.

Benefit of PSEC Project

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department began using the PSEC System in January 2014, and has experienced little to no issues with radio coverage throughout the county. Field testing in the City of Murrieta has shown very good coverage throughout the city limits. The coverage is superior to the current Murrieta Police Department radio system, and its coverage would allow Murrieta police officers to have continuous communication with the dispatch center and other

Murrieta officers throughout Riverside County, as well as in portions of northern San Diego County and Orange County. Additionally, Murrieta officers would have the ability to have seamless interoperability with other public safety agencies during emergencies or large-scale events.

Coupled with the radio frequencies the Murrieta Police Department has already secured from other Riverside County municipal law enforcement agencies, a migration to the PSEC Project would enable the Murrieta Police Department to have an extremely reliable and robust radio system that provides seamless radio interoperability with other public safety agencies during emergency situations or large-scale events.

PLAN

The Murrieta Police Department is scheduled for a City Council Workshop on October 7, 2014. The police department staff will discuss all radio communication options for the Police Department, including the potential migration to the PSEC Project. It will be the Murrieta Police Department's recommendation to join the PSEC Project, and the department has already identified potential funding sources through developer impact fees and asset forfeiture. It is hoped the Murrieta Police Department would be able to migrate to the PSEC Project as early as January 2015.