

Cities of Indio & Palm Springs California

Project Description:

The California Cities of Indio, Palm Springs, Cathedral City and Desert Hot Springs are currently endeavoring to establish and implement a regional joint public safety radio communications services agency called the Eastern Riverside County Interoperable Communications Authority ("ERICA").

These communities recently issued an integrated Request for Proposals to Motorola for an integrated, modern generation, 800 MHz trunked radio system which would serve all four communities. In response, Motorola tendered proposals for radio user and dispatch console equipment to each community and a joint proposal for radio system infrastructure and common equipment called the radio system "backbone." In the case of the latter proposal, the intention is that the backbone costs would be equitably shared between all four communities.

The conditions that precipitated the planned move to the ERICA was the need on each city's part to replace aging existing public safety radio systems that have become somewhat unreliable and very difficult to maintain. In general, the manufacturers no longer support many of the key equipment items thus making replacement parts very difficult to find.

ACSI was engaged by the City of Palm Springs to assess the condition of the City's 800 MHz trunked public safety radio system. ACSI found that the system was on its "last legs" and could, at any time, suffer a catastrophic failure that would seriously hamper the ability to communicate. Subsequently, the City of Indio has reported to ACSI that its radio system is of the same vintage and condition.

In the consideration of Motorola's tendered proposals for the new radio system, the City of Indio approached ACSI seeking a limited engagement to review the Motorola proposals to determine if they are technically sound and reasonably priced. This requested analysis was to be based on the content of the several Motorola proposals and ACSI's understanding of radio system needs and operating conditions as they exist in the Coachella Valley gained from its prior Palm Springs evaluation.

As a professional engineering consulting firm that regularly provides planning, design and evaluation services in the public safety radio communications field, ACSI accepted the engagement. A report was delivered documenting ACSI's analysis and findings.

