



BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:00 pm
Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077

Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Chuck Maginnis, BABCNC EP Committee Chair & At-Large Representative; Bel Air Rd. EP Captain; CERT	X		Michael Schlenker, Bel Air Crest EP Chair; BABCNC EP HCEC Communications Committee Chair; LAFD ACS & CERT		X
Maureen Smith, BABCNC Religious Institutions Representative		X	Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge EPAC member, BABCNC EP member, LAFD ASC member, HCEC member	X	
Irene Sandler, BABCNC Bel Air Crest Master Association Representative		X	Dan Palmer, BABCNC Residents of Beverly Glen Representative and RBG EP Chair	X	
Jacqueline Le Kennedy, BABCNC Business Representative and Board Treasurer	X		Hildreth Simmons, Residents of Beverly Glen EP Committee member		X
Danielle Cohen, Bel Air Ridge Resident; EPAC Co-chair, Ham/CERT		X	Seema Hassan, Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)		X
Stephanie Savage, BABCNC Laurel Canyon Association Representative		X	Rob Farber, BABCNC At-Large Youth Representative	X	
Maureen Levinson, BABCNC Bel Air District Rep., C-PAB; <i>pending board approval</i>	X				

Attendees:

Chris Odenthal, Project Director, LA-RICS
 Stella Grey, Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)
 Shelly Seltzer, Colina Glen HOA EP committee member
 Emily Ooms, Colina Glen HOA EP committee member
 Robin Greenberg, BABCNC Board President & Bel Air Hills Association (BAHA) Representative
 Robert Schlesinger, BABCNC Planning & Land Use Chair; Benedict Canyon Association Rep;
 Judie Hulett, Brentwood HOA, Brentwood Council EP Committee; Ham Operator with HCEC
 Cathy Palmer, BABCNC Board Administrator

- 1. Call to order – Chuck Maginnis, Chair:** Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.
- 2. Roll Call & Introduction of Attendees:** Roll was called with four members present; Jacqueline arrived at 7:19 pm for a total of 5, Dan Palmer at 7:49 pm for a total of 6 present. Maureen Levinson has asked to join and was placed on the committee, pending board approval. Quorum was not met.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance:**
- 4. Approval of January 16, 2019 Minutes:** Deferred due to lack of quorum.
- 5. Public Comment:** None.
- 6. LA-RICS Interoperable Communications System Presentation:**

■ Chris Odenthal, Project Director, LA-RICS: Chris noted that this committee last heard from LA-RICS in 2014. LA-RICS stands for Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications, which stitches together communications between various departments relating to Emergency Preparedness in LA County. The following are some comments from the Power Point presentation given by Chris Odenthal:

Below from left: Maureen Levinson, Jacqueline Le Kennedy, Shelly Seltzer, Emily Ooms, Cathy Palmer (in back) & Robin Greenberg listen to Chris.



Chris noted that most systems do not communicate with each other. They are 40% through with their construction process with the network.

The last speaker on this discussed LTE towers. LA-RICS connects that as well. Final build out of 76 towers in LA County for public safety.

He related that Congress passed legislation for First Net, a dedicated network for public safety. They are in the process of transferring this to AT&T network for public safety.

LA-RICS is technically out of the data LTE business; they sold that stake and recovered those funds locally from a government perspective and paid that back.

There are probably 30 independent networks that still do not talk to each other.

Asked if 4G and 5G telephones can listen to this type of network, he noted that you would not be able to utilize a phone to listen to a public safety call unless Public Safety says that a given discussion is not encrypted.

Jacqueline asked and he noted that Huawei is a Chinese manufacturer of telecom equipment, one of the largest suppliers in the world. Part of their business is 5G; the most advanced in the world today. He noted that Huawei has been banned in the US in the 5G sites but not in the 4G; Huawei is substantially cheaper to deploy, and most of that equipment is deployed in rural America. What is required to do by law is to replace all Huawei equipment.

Chuck asked about Police-Fire in 88 municipalities to which he noted that everybody has law and fire unless they contract with the County, so the only contracting entity is LA County (LAC). LAPD uses a different radio to talk to LAFD; LAC is the same way. That was the effort to fix.

Below, Chris Odenthal explains facets of Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications (LA_RICS) to the group.



AT&T's role in public safety communication: A private corporation is in control of public communication. It boils down to – in order to stand up a nationwide network that is exclusive to public safety, it would have cost billions of dollars to stand up a separate network; they said AT&T has these assets already, and were asked to dedicate a portion of them to public safety. EPC = Evolved Packet Core.

AT&T had to set up a separate core not available to public access. It is riding on AT&T's investment. The government did not have the funds to build 30,000 sites across the country.

LA-RICS served as the pilot program nationwide for “First Wide”; they have since sold that stake. They monitor how things are performing but on the side, what they are working on is the “Land- Rover radio, the next generation of the walkie-talkie.

Of the 88 municipalities, there are not any agencies in LAC as of yet who have fully rotated onto First Net through AT&T. LAFD & LAPD are the closest and have about 40-70 percent of their fleets programmed into that. The Sheriffs were already AT&T customers so it was easier for them. They would have to touch every single cop car and change the equipment out, a four-hour installation process per car. What public safety gets out of First Net is priority and preemption. We all hit different parts of the network when we dial or text.

Who is LA-RICS? (from the Power Point Presentation): “Independent Authority is responsible for providing Interoperable voice and data communications systems for member public safety organizations within Los Angeles County. LA-RICS was formed to build, operate and maintain a single platform public safety communications system that blankets the region, with connections to other local interoperable systems. The sole mission is to increase interoperability within the region at the lowest possible cost to all.”

Chris Odenthal related that most public safety is in the worst category, people are gradually moving to the second to the best, who have their own networks. The region decided when Long Beach and LA pulled out of the agreement that technically they can do better because the technology got better. When LAPD operates in the LA County's area, they can talk back to their dispatch using LA-RICS.

Example, there are five sites they are building in the Santa Monica Mountains. So during the fire in Malibu that raced into Ventura, everybody could have been on LA-RICS. What is likely to happen, some of the smaller ones will roll onto the LA-RICS network as it rolls out in 2021. LA and Long Beach had not built their own towers.

When you talk about the 33 different communication systems, they operate on the analog technology from 1950, which is helpful from a ham perspective, because it is not encrypted. Anybody can get on it. You have a radio; turn on the frequency and you can hear it. The technology has changed so drastically, LA Sheriffs have been buying their stuff on eBay, from those who have already moved on to newer technology.

Asked about risks of 5G, he noted that all signs point to nonionizing radiation. The signals coming through the air are not enough to change molecular structure that would trigger cancer. He continued that 5G is a little different in that there will be many more spots all over the place. "As you increase your spectrum frequency... the wave penetrates things better but not enough to change your molecular structure, according to a doctor from Davis that they hired to speak to City Council.

Rob asked for the structure of LA-RICS, to which Chris responded that the Joint Powers Authority is unique to the state of California, set up for all sorts of things, but "we set one up for interoperable public safety communications. The Chair is the Sheriff, Vice Chair is LAC Fire Chief, and there are seats for various communities including Dept. of Health Service and LAC CEO. His team presents to that board their progress, issues, whether contractual, or lease agreements, and they say yes or no; they are public meetings. Their meetings are all on their website.

Public safety grade ranging from structural integrity of physical sites to redundancy at the network level. The sites are designed to stand a 9.0 earthquake. They have two cores, one in Palmdale and one at eastern avenue, both on dual power services, coming off two separate grids. Two different grids are feeding each building, doing everything possible to construct a network to stand whatever is thrown at them from an act of God.

They have 58 sites through 482 square miles of lac. He will show us a map of those in our area. They are building 58. The city of LA has 16 sites, LAC Fire has 21 and the Sheriff's has 26. They are using a fair amount of those LAC locations.

He related that they have found that most of the infrastructure fails building code. None of the existing towers unless they were built in the last five years passed code. Therefore, they all have to be replaced or retrofitted.

The network of 58 will all go live in 2021. (He pointed out various sites on the map including but not limited to north-facing slope of the SM Mountains and aqueduct. He related that we are operating under the City of LA's network. What they are installing is different from LA City.

Listening to Chris present LA-RICS from left: Robin Greenberg, Cathy Palmer (back), Stella Grey, Rob Farber (back), Ron Cornell (front), Bob Schlesinger, Dan Palmer & Judie Lulett.



They have a site, called the Quonset Hut, and another site that they were looking at, San Vicente Peak, which had a maelstrom of objections, so they walked from that one. The coverage of San Vicente Peak would give City of LA coverage, so their reliance from a LA-RICS perspective, they would be operating on the City of LA's network. It is a missile site at the top of Mandeville Canyon.

They do not pay rent for the 58 sites. They are negotiating on a site with state parks, and the initial figure tossed out was \$10,000 a month. So LA City allowed them to use a site at no cost. There is reciprocation. The network would have been done two years ago at a much greater operating cost. Connections to other regional partners discussed.

Dan Palmer asked what qualifications to be part of the network for an EP organization? Chris related that he guesses LA City Fire would not change any of their parameters. They may use LAPD's currently being built for some of their admin and medical response but are not getting rid of their analog conventional. From a fire discipline perspective, analog conventional is not going anywhere, as it allows for direct communication; it allows your radio to walkie-talkie to my radio; however, new technology does not allow that.

The Federal government is the investor in LA-RICS.

LA-RICS has four subsystems: primary is a digital, trumped on both UHF and 700 which coverages mirror each other. The next is analog conventional layer, with frequencies aligned to how fire operates in LAC overall in each of the four regions' telephone radio operator areas. Their capacity for each of those four is to handle two fire events simultaneously in each one. The next level is the Los Angeles Regional tax. The Los Angeles regional tactical communication system with 5 channels all built with Federal and State interoperable channels, so if anyone comes from Iowa, they can communicate immediately with them. AT&T and Verizon do not build broadband where people do not live.

He discussed the scientific studies that were done and shown to the City and County officials. They are building one at UCLA at \$750,000. Each costs a different amount. They sank each pile on 60 feet down after doing a geo-tech analysis and getting soil samples. Their specs include wind speed, twist and sway, and ratcheted up above code, which withstands a 7.5 earthquake.

They will put cell service on eight of the towers in the mountains. The site that is going in at Universal will not have a cell coverage. The only solution from a public safety perspective is to build sites where there is no coverage.

How do they plan for the total grid going down? Every site also has a generator, the size of which depends on the difficulty accessing that site. They are diesel powered.

7 HOA Maps and Overlays Update

■ Chuck Maginnis: Maureen noted that you can zoom in on a map that Travis already has done. Chuck noted that there are at least 13 HOAs. Maureen suggested that we set up a meeting with him. Judie Hulett explained some of the ways these can be used. Ron related that we could map our area for water mains, which his drought committee is doing. He believes in a few months we will be able to come up with something more concrete. It is still early. It will take time to define it. Judie noted if you know where the gas mains are, that alone will keep fires from exploding. Maureen explained it is information with overlays, from the open space area, and could include the wildlife corridors/land life. He already has fault lines. The numbers of layers are unlimited. Maureen thinks that some of this may be available on Navigate LA. Bob noted that he and Don Loze have been working on the ridgeline ordinance, and Don said go to JPL, who already have ridgelines and fault lines mapped out.

8 2019 EP Goals, Resilience Plan & HOA updates

■ HOA leads, Bill Grundfest & Ron Cornell (Bill Grundfest was not present)
- Shelly Seltzer brought up Danielle Cohen and the “shakealertla” app, encouraging everyone to tell your HOAs, and about the podcast, “The Big One: Your Survival Guide.”
- Chuck noted that Michael Schlenker gave him a new LAPD guide.

Other informational items mentioned

- SOS survival products weekend of April 26 and 27th
- Weekend of March 30th, a free EP training at 10:00 am.
- In April First Aid CPR class \$65.00 for the certification.
- May First Aid for Pets May 18th \$50.00 fee.
- Maureen related that Battalion 15, DWP will do an electrical demonstration tomorrow in Granada Hills.
- On May 19th, Mandeville’s evacuation drill is starting at 11:00. They will evacuate cars and people with LAPD and LAFD.
- Paul Revere will have a safety fair.
- Michael is coordinating ham relays.
- June 9th Brentwood 10-K Run.
- Jeff from SOS, CERT, and other EP’s will be there including children’s activities.

9. Adjournment: Moved and seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 (3rd Wednesday every other month)