



# MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT

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## Regional Collaboration Results in Improved Emergency Response, Cost Savings

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Marina, CA

The Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) and the County of Monterey have completed an agreement to provide emergency communication services to the Monterey Peninsula, expanding on inter-agency collaboration and resulting in significant cost savings. The agreement for the Next Generation Radio Project (NGEN), provides emergency services in Monterey County access to MCWD's radio tower site with a savings of \$90,000 over the 5-year lease term.

The Monterey region's emergency services will now be able to utilize the NGEN system through Sprint's telecommunications tower on the MCWD site. The tower will provide public safety emergency radio service to a coverage area spanning from the City of Monterey to the City of Marina and points in-between. The previous agreement, which required the Sprint Corporation to collect a \$1,500 sublease fee for space on the tower, has been waived for 5 years. Thus, the savings to the County of Monterey is \$90,000.

NGEN replaces existing voice and data radio networks including radios, portables, base station equipment, repeaters, and radio control systems with narrowband and digital trunking (coordinated frequencies) technology. This upgrade is part of a Federal Communications Commission mandate that requires re-designs of VHF and UHF communications systems. NGEN will ensure reliability and enable interoperability between public safety agencies and, during widespread emergencies, between safety and local government agencies.

"This is an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate that public services agencies work collaboratively to provide services to the public," said David Hober, Chief of Police, Monterey Police Department. By working together, regional agencies are expected to see significant cost savings. According to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, savings are estimated at 30% over what the agencies would spend acting independently.

"MCWD and the Monterey County Regional Fire District continue to enjoy a very collaborative relationship with the ongoing matters of water and emergency response to our residents," said David Sargenti, Division Chief of the Monterey County Regional Fire District. "NGEN is yet another example of responsible governmental agencies working together to serve our shared constituents."

MCWD provides high quality water, waste water and recycled water services to more than 30,000 customers in the Monterey Peninsula communities of the City of Marina and the Ord Community through management, conservation, and development of future sources while at reasonable costs. The District is governed by a five-member board of directors who are elected by voters.