

**800 MHZ REBANDING  
CPRA/OCFA MEETING NOTES**

**By: Ray Grimes  
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- **2009—(NOT) THE DECISIVE YEAR!** FCC, TA, APCO and industry news sources had very little Wave 4 Rebanding reported activity or indication of real progress as to a U.S./Mexico Treaty Agreement affecting the 800 MHz border frequency plan in 2009.
- **FCC Fourth M&O WT Docket 02-55 released Feb. 25, 2009. U.S./Canada Border Rebanding policy to proceed. Canada 800 MHz Rebanding NPSPAC frequency plan mirrors that of U.S. and sets expectations that ‘future’ U.S./Mexico Treaty Agreement NPSPAC frequency plan should be identical for international and national mutual aid frequencies (ITAC, CLEMARS, FIREMARS).**
- **FCC Order WT Docket No. 02-55 released June 24, 2009 postpones 800 MHz Rebanding financial reconciliation ‘true-up’ period from July 1 to Dec. 1, with mandatory requirement for TA to file report on Nov. 2, 2009 with recommendation for possible further postponement of ‘true-up’ date.**
- **TA March 31, 2009 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Progress Report, released June 19, 2009 available online at 800 MHz Transition Administrator web site. TA 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report expected soon.**
- **Per June 18 OC Fire Chief’s Association (OCFCA) monthly meeting, OCFCA agreed to NOT include *legacy* FIREMARS, ICALL, AND ITAC programming in *new* Rebanding radio programming. This will minimize the need to touch these radios two or more times, though that still may be necessary to manage Rebanding of Orange County 800 MHz radios with State-specific 800 MHz programming such as State Parks and Universities. Some risk regarding interim availability of mutual aid Fire communications capability in disaster though agencies can always exchange packsets on-scene or employ local cross-patches. OCFCA also agreed that Huntington Beach Fire, Laguna Beach Fire, Newport Beach Fire, and OCFA WILL retain ‘legacy’ California State Parks programming and WILL require second reprogramming at some future date. Additionally, OCFCA agreed that Fullerton Fire Dept. shall retain ‘legacy’ CSU Fullerton Police Dept. programming and will thus require future second Rebanding reprogramming. Similar mutual aid programming considerations must also be made for OCCOPSA and OC Lifeguard Association members.**

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- **APCO, IACP, and IAFC on November 12 jointly requested the FCC to release information used to develop cost metrics as applied by the Transition Administrator. This request is in consideration of a need for incumbents to have some information to weigh vendor quotes against customary and approved Rebanding costs for vendor services, coupled with complaints that the TA's cost metrics were outdated and misapplied. An important challenge for incumbent negotiations with Sprint-Nextel is that Rebanding metrics appear to be formulated on the size of systems to be rebanded, failing to factor in complexity (large radio networks, agency partnerships, mixtures of local and state operations with complex licensing agreements, etc.).**
  
- **County of Orange recently (though unsuccessfully) requested Sprint-Nextel's permission to proceed with limited Wave 4 non-cost-duplicative or non-frequency-specific Rebanding activities for \$1.06 million (13% of the \$8.06M previously requested in County's Implementation FRA). Proposal included tasks such as replacement of 2 SIMS terminals, replacement of 32 base station antennas, Rebanding upgrades or replacement of 28 Motorola Service Monitors, replacement or reconfiguration of 55 BDA's, replacement of 16 mobile radio scanners, and reimbursement of 33% of County's initial cost for MCM labor and projects tracking software now in use in support of Rebanding. Sprint-Nextel stated that County could only Rebanding 'negotiate' with Sprint-Nextel but could not proceed with any Rebanding actions. At recommendation of the TA, the County on August 11, 2009 filed a Rebanding Change Notice, starting the clock for a mandatory Sprint-Nextel formal response within 30 days. Sprint-Nextel to date has verbally agreed to all of the County's limited Implementation FRA request items, though has not yet delivered a formal agreement to close the deal.. Sprint-Nextel at this late date, is now asking the County to justify the replacement of numerous privately owned and operated BDA's that affect the 800 MHz CCCS network, further delaying the County's ability to proceed in any manner. The FCC Rules and the TA processes related to Wave 4 Rebanding would seem to bear very few guarantees for Wave 4 incumbents in terms of due process and timeliness.**