



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001  
www.kirklandwa.gov

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** Marilynne Beard, Deputy City Manager  
**Date:** March 19, 2015  
**Subject:** Resolution Supporting Puget Sound Emergency Radio System Ballot Measure

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

City Council holds a public hearing and considers the attached resolution expressing support for the Puget Sound Emergency Radio System ballot measure which will be on the ballot on April 28, 2015.

### **BACKGROUND:**

King County's emergency radio system is owned by four separate agencies – King County, the City of Seattle, Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) and Valley Communications Center (ValleyCom). The four agencies have agreed to consolidate management of the emergency radio system into one agency, the Puget Sound Emergency Radio System (PSERN) and to request voter approval for funding to replace and upgrade the current aging radio system.

At its November 18, 2014 meeting, the Kirkland City Council approved Resolution 5083 authorizing the City Manager to sign the PSERN Implementation Interlocal Agreement. The implementation ILA covers the planning, procurement, financing and implementation of the new PSERN system. At its January 20, 2015 meeting, the City Council adopted Resolution 5099 authorizing the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding future operation of the PSERN. The MOU describes the governance, voting rights and payment of user fees during the implementation.

With the two foundational documents executed, at its March 2, 2015 meeting the King County Council voted to place a measure on the ballot in April 2015 to increase the County's regular property tax levy for nine years to finance the costs for the PSERN radio system replacement. The proposed levy rate increase is \$0.07 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The property tax increase for the median valued home of \$435,000 in Kirkland would be \$30.45 per year, or \$2.54 per month. The ballot measure language follows:

Proposition 1

Regular Property Tax Levy for Emergency Public Safety Radio Network Replacement Project

*The King County council passed Ordinance 17993 concerning funding for a new, upgraded regional emergency radio network. This proposition would provide funding to replace the current aging emergency radio network used for dispatching and communicating with police, fire and other first responders. The proposition would fund capital and transition costs as defined in Ordinance 17993 and would authorize King County to levy an additional regular property tax of \$0.07 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for nine years with collection beginning in 2016. The 2015 levy amount would be used to compute limitations under Chapter 84.55 RCW for the eight succeeding years. Should this proposition be:*

*Approved?\_\_\_*

*Rejected?\_\_\_*

Once the system is fully implemented and accepted, an additional interlocal agreement establishing a non-profit PSERN entity (the "entity ILA") will be presented for consideration.

Under RCW 42.17A.55, the Council may vote on a resolution to support or oppose a ballot proposition "so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body or members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of any opposing view;..."

Attachments:       A. King County Ordinance 17993  
                          PSERN (Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network) FAQ  
                          Resolution of the Kirkland City Council Supporting Proposition 1



**KING COUNTY**  
**Signature Report**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**March 2, 2015**

**Ordinance 17993**

**Proposed No. 2015-0016.2**

**Sponsors McDermott**

1 AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the  
2 qualified electors of King County at a special election to be  
3 held in King County on April 28, 2015, of a proposition  
4 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy  
5 limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a  
6 consecutive nine-year period at a rate of not more than  
7 \$0.07 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation for the  
8 capital, transition, and financing costs for the Puget Sound  
9 emergency radio network project.

10 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 11 1. King County's current emergency public safety radio network  
12 ("KCERCS") is owned by four governmental entities: the city of Seattle;  
13 the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency ("EPSCA"); the  
14 Valley Communications Center ("ValleyCom"); and King County. Each  
15 co-owner owns and manages separate sites, equipment and software and  
16 has its own customers.
- 17 2. KCERCS was substantially completed in 1997. It is aging and is  
18 requiring increasing repairs.

19 3. The vendor for KCERCS intends to stop supplying all replacement  
20 parts and repairing all used parts by December 31, 2018. King County  
21 must replace its emergency public safety radio network or risk  
22 performance degradation.

23 4. The King County council previously established a capital improvement  
24 project for this purpose.

25 5. King County executive staff has been working with the co-owners and  
26 users to plan the replacement of KCERCS with a new network that is  
27 known as the Puget Sound emergency radio network ("PSERN").

28 6. The PSERN project would cost approximately \$246 million, not  
29 including the cost of financing. King County will need additional tax  
30 revenues if it is to go ahead with the project.

31 7. If the funding measure is put on the ballot and approved by the voters,  
32 fire districts' levies may be reduced and services diminished.

33 8. The King County council finds that any reduction in fire district staff or  
34 services resulting from the PSERN levy would be contrary to the public  
35 interest. This funding proposal is intended to address concerns about  
36 prorationing of fire district levies during the term of the proposed levy.

37 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:**

38 **SECTION 1. Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this  
39 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

40 A. "Capital costs" means all costs incurred incident to the planning, design,  
41 remodeling, construction and equipping of the project including, but not limited to, the

42 costs of architectural, engineering, legal and other consulting services inspection and  
43 testing, project management, relocation, site improvements, demolition and on- and off-  
44 site utilities. "Capital costs" also include the costs related to the sale, issuance and  
45 delivery of one or more series of bond anticipation notes or bonds. However "capital  
46 costs" do not include the costs of maintenance or operations.

47 B. "Fire district" means an organization authorized under RCW 52.02.020 or  
48 chapter 52.26 RCW.

49 C. "Fire service protection allocation" means the portion of levy proceeds, the  
50 purpose of which is to prevent a reduction in fire district staff or services resulting from  
51 prorationing mandated by RCW 84.52.010 and consistent with interlocal agreements  
52 between King County and any participating fire districts.

53 D. "Full system acceptance" means the determination issued to the contractor  
54 upon satisfactorily completing the final system development phase.

55 E. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes, for the specific purposes and  
56 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state  
57 law.

58 F. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of revenue raised by the levy,  
59 any interest earnings on the revenues and the proceeds of any financing following  
60 authorization of the levy.

61 G. "Network" means the Puget Sound emergency radio network that is used  
62 primarily for dispatching public safety, fire, emergency medical staff and other  
63 responders to incidents for coordinating operations at those incidents.

64 H. "Operator" means King County or an entity established by the county, the  
65 Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland,  
66 Mercer Island and Redmond, the Valley Communications Center cities of Auburn,  
67 Federal Way, Kent, Renton and Tukwila, and the city of Seattle, through an interlocal  
68 agreement as authorized under RCW 39.34.030, which will own, operate, maintain,  
69 repair and govern the network after full system acceptance.

70 I. "Project" means all authorized activities relating to a capital project to plan,  
71 build, test, operate and transfer ownership of the network.

72 J. "Rate stabilization allocation" means the portion of the levy proceeds, the  
73 purpose of which is to reduce and phase in the impact of increased user rates on network  
74 users.

75 K. "Transition costs" means the operational costs to transition from the current  
76 emergency radio systems to the network, including , but not limited to, costs to operate  
77 the network during the transitional period and until it is transferred to the operator; pay  
78 for equipment warranties, updates and upgrades included in the vendor contract; establish  
79 an entity that would own and operate the network; and pay for election costs. "Transition  
80 costs" also includes payments for rate stabilization allocation and a fire service protection  
81 allocation.

82 **SECTION 2. Levy submittal.** To provide necessary revenues for the capital  
83 costs and transition costs for the network, the county council shall submit to the qualified  
84 electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy in excess of  
85 the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for nine consecutive years,  
86 commencing in 2015, with collection beginning in 2016, at a rate in the first year not to

87 exceed \$0.07 per one thousand dollars of assessed value. In accordance with RCW  
88 84.55.050, the levy shall be a regular property tax levy, subject to the statutory rate limit  
89 of RCW 84.52.043.

90 **SECTION 3. Project description.**

91 A. The project will replace King County's aging emergency radio network with a  
92 new emergency radio network, the Puget Sound emergency radio network, having  
93 improved coverage, capacity and reliability. King County will provide support while the  
94 new system is being planned, contracted for, deployed, tested and operated. Once the  
95 network has achieved full system acceptance, the network shall be managed and operated  
96 by an operator.

97 B. The county estimates that the capital costs and the transition costs for the  
98 project will be \$246 million.

99 **SECTION 4. Deposit of levy proceeds.** If approved by the voters, the levy  
100 proceeds shall be deposited in a special revenue fund created by ordinance.

101 **SECTION 5. Eligible expenditures.** If approved by the qualified electors of the  
102 county, the levy proceeds shall be used only for the capital costs and transition costs of  
103 the project. The maximum amount of levy proceeds for the rate stabilization allocation  
104 shall be \$2,619,406. Up to a maximum of \$1 million annually may be used for the fire  
105 protection services allocation. Consistent with RCW 84.55.050, levy proceeds may not  
106 supplant existing funding. If the actual costs for financing and for fire protection services  
107 are less than the amounts estimated, any savings shall be used first for capital  
108 contingency costs, and if any savings remain after all capital costs have been paid, the  
109 savings then may be used for transition costs.

110           **SECTION 6. Call for special election.** In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321,  
111 the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with  
112 the special election on April 28, 2015. The director of elections shall cause notice to be  
113 given of this ordinance in accordance with the state constitution and general law and to  
114 submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the said special county election, the  
115 proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council shall certify that proposition to  
116 the director of elections, in substantially the following form, with such additions,  
117 deletions or modifications as may be required for the proposition listed below by the  
118 prosecuting attorney:

119           **PROPOSITION \_\_\_\_:** The King County council passed Ordinance  
120 \_\_\_\_\_ concerning funding for a new, upgraded regional emergency  
121 radio network. This proposition would provide funding to replace the  
122 current emergency radio network used for dispatching and communicating  
123 with police, fire and other responders. The proposition would fund capital  
124 and transition costs as defined in Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ and would  
125 authorize King County to levy an additional regular property tax of \$0.07  
126 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for nine years with collection beginning  
127 in 2016. The 2015 levy amount would be used to compute limitations  
128 under Chapter 84.55 RCW for the eight succeeding years. Should this  
129 proposition be:

130 Approved? \_\_\_\_\_

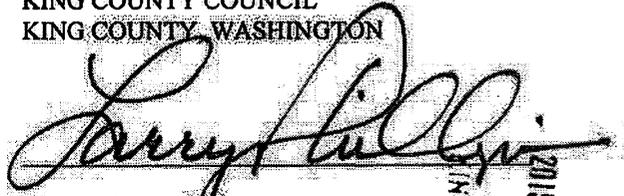
131 Rejected? \_\_\_\_\_

132            SECTION 7. Severability. If any one or more of the provisions of this ordinance  
133 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect  
134 the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance, the bonds or any short-term  
135 obligations issued in anticipation thereof, and this ordinance, the bonds and any short-  
136 term obligations issued in anticipation thereof shall be construed and enforced as if the  
137 unconstitutional or invalid provisions had not been contained in this ordinance.  
138

Ordinance 17993 was introduced on 1/12/2015 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 3/2/2015, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr.  
Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove  
No: 1 - Mr. von Reichbauer  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 2 day of March, 2015   
Daw Constantine, County Executive

RECEIVED  
2015 MAR -2 PM 3:38  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments: A. Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) Finance Plan

### Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) Finance Plan

Updated 12/16/2014

Cash flow financing for the PSERN project anticipates the use of short and long term debt, backed by a 9 year levy lid lift.

Cash Flow Model	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Revenue</b>											
BAN/Interfund Loan/Bond Proceeds <sup>1</sup>	\$28,140,000	\$140,700,000			\$43,215,000						
Levy Collections <sup>2</sup>		\$27,832,992	\$28,448,608	\$28,059,946	\$28,669,461	\$30,283,789	\$30,907,052	\$31,542,183	\$32,191,954	\$32,856,742	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,140,000</b>	<b>\$168,532,992</b>	<b>\$28,448,608</b>	<b>\$29,059,946</b>	<b>\$72,884,461</b>	<b>\$30,283,789</b>	<b>\$30,907,052</b>	<b>\$31,542,183</b>	<b>\$32,191,954</b>	<b>\$32,856,742</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>											
PSERN Project Costs <sup>3</sup>	\$11,611,917	\$24,728,020	\$46,178,395	\$34,364,643	\$56,023,557	\$16,631,010	\$5,027,968				
20% Contingency	\$2,322,383	\$4,945,604	\$9,235,679	\$6,872,929	\$11,204,711	\$3,326,202	\$1,005,594				
Reserves <sup>4</sup>		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,750,000	\$2,237,176	\$1,824,826	\$1,557,404	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	
BAN Payoff		\$28,351,050									
Debt Service Payments <sup>5</sup>			\$20,255,543	\$20,255,543	\$20,255,543	\$28,299,149	\$28,299,149	\$28,299,149	\$28,299,149	\$28,299,149	\$8,043,607
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,934,300</b>	<b>\$59,024,674</b>	<b>\$76,669,617</b>	<b>\$62,493,115</b>	<b>\$89,233,811</b>	<b>\$50,493,537</b>	<b>\$36,157,537</b>	<b>\$29,856,553</b>	<b>\$29,299,149</b>	<b>\$29,299,149</b>	<b>\$8,043,607</b>
Fund Balance <sup>6</sup>	\$14,205,700	\$123,714,018	\$75,493,009	\$42,059,840	\$25,710,491	\$5,500,742	\$250,257	\$1,935,887	\$4,828,692	\$8,386,285	\$342,678
<b>Financial Summary<sup>7</sup></b>											
BAN Proceeds	\$28,140,000										
Bond Proceeds	\$183,915,000										
Levy Collections	\$272,792,726										
Project & Contingency Costs	\$233,478,612										
Reserves	\$12,369,406										
Cost of Financing	\$26,602,030										

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> 2015 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) issued when levy is approved by voters. Bonds are assumed to be tax exempt. Issuance costs are included in proceeds and debt service.

<sup>2</sup> Levy collections are based on a 9 year levy lid lift with a starting rate of \$0.07. Collections assume 1% limit and are calculated based on August 2014 OEFA forecast.

<sup>3</sup> PSERN project costs exclude the cost of borrowing or issuance. Issuance costs will be rolled into debt issuance. Cost that are already incurred and the cost of an election are included in the 2015 costs. Project costs include 20% contingency. Contingency covers both project and financing cost.

<sup>4</sup> Reserves include contingencies for 1) transition costs to the new radio network, 2) rate stabilization to mitigate the operating costs of the new system, and 3) funds to offset the impact of levy suppression on fire districts as a result of the PSERN Levy.

<sup>5</sup> Debt Service payments assume \$140.7M for 8 years at 3.25% and \$43.2M for 6 years at 3.25%. Bond proceeds are expected to be spent within three years of sale.

<sup>6</sup> Fund balance will be managed to not go below \$0. If it appears that fund balance will go below \$0, the fund manager will request a temporary loan from the King County pool.

<sup>7</sup> Actual timing and size of bond and BAN issuances will be based on the cash needs of the project and optimized to reduce the overall cost of financing while minimizing interest rate risk. This base scenario includes one BAN and two bonds. The number of BANs and bonds issued could vary. The County may choose to utilize interfund borrowing to minimize costs.



## PSERN (Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network)

### FAQ

**Q: What is PSERN?**

**A:** *PSERN is a construction project that will replace the current aging emergency radio communications network with a new emergency radio communications network.*

**Q: What are emergency radio communications networks used for?**

**A:** *When we call 9-1-1, a dispatcher sends us police officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical staff using a separate radio system known as the King County Emergency Radio Communications System. The same system is used by these responders to coordinate their activities at emergency incidents and to communicate with managerial staff that is directing their response to the incident.*

**Q: Why do we need a new emergency radio communications network?**

**A:** *The current network is approaching 20 years old and is in danger of failing if it isn't replaced in a timely manner.*

**Q: How much will PSERN cost and how will it be paid for?**

**A:** *The project, including sites, equipment, labor, sales tax, and interest on the bonds will cost approximately \$273 million. The Metropolitan King County Council has approved a measure to be placed on the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 ballot to fund the project.*

**Q: What kind of funding measure will be before voters this spring? What funding options were considered? Why was this option chosen?**

**A:** *The Metropolitan King County Council has authorized a levy lid lift for voters to consider on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Several funding options were considered including Criminal Justice Sales Tax, Emergency Communication System Sales Tax, Excess Levy, Excess Levy and a Levy Lid Lift, Sharing the Financing with the Subregional Entities, Sharing the Financing with All Jurisdictions and Partial Funding Options. It was decided that using a Levy Lid Lift is the only viable option for funding a new system with a single taxing measure.*

**Q: If approved by voters, how much are taxes going to increase?**

**A:** *7.0 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value over 9 years. This equates to \$26.46 per household, per year for the median value of \$378,000.*



**Q: Can't we just replace a couple of parts or migrate rather than replacing the whole system?**

**A:** *The parts that the current system uses won't be compatible with the new network. In addition, the current system cannot support the new technology PSERN will have.*

**Q: Why must a new system be funded now rather than later? What are the risks of delaying funding until later?**

**A:** *The longer we delay after spare parts and repairs cease to be available at the end of 2018, the greater is the risk that responders will be unable to communicate when needed. Technically speaking, the system will lose capacity and coverage area.*

*With the above said, we have taken certain precautionary steps to address system problems if this does occur. For example, we have purchased a cache of spare parts. If we do not have a part or our supply runs out we would then look to purchase the part from a secondary vendor.*

**Q: Are there additional concerns with our current system?**

**A:** *Yes. The system was designed in 1992 for the County's population at that time. Since then, the County's population and the dispersal of that population have grown in ways no one could anticipate. As a result, our system does not cover all of the areas in the County where services is needed and is lacks the capacity needed during large-scale disasters and incidents.*

**Q: Why can't first responders use cell phones?**

**A:** *Cell phones are not an option due to lack of reliability. They don't have sufficient back up or the capacity to operate in a power outage or other widespread emergency situations. Most importantly, they do not work the way emergency radio system do. They are not capable of operating in a "dispatch" fashion where one person broadcasts to many people, nor are they capable of working "off network" such as radio to radio operations that are often used at fire scenes.*

**Q: Who is leading the project?**

**A:** *There are four owners of the radio communications system—Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA), King County, City of Seattle and Valley Communications (ValleyComm). Each entity owns separate towers and equipment run by a central computer. King County is responsible for leading and implementing the project on behalf of the owners and will see the project through to completion.*



**Q: Is there a binding document guaranteeing the County can effectively manage vendor contract(s) and other parts of the project?**

**A:** *The County and other partners are in agreement about roles and responsibilities during PSERN planning, construction, and testing, and that agreement is in the Implementation Period Interlocal Agreement. This Interlocal Agreement will form the basis for PSERN Project governance.*

**Q: Will the ownership and operation of the new system remain the same as for the current system?**

**A:** *A new consolidated operational and governance agency will be created. This public, non-profit organization, working closely with the current co-owners, will take the lead with the purchase, implementation and testing of the new network. It will also operate and maintain the new system infrastructure going forward. It will have the same level of jurisdictional representation as the current emergency radio system and will have increased representation from the first responder community. An Operations Period Interlocal Agreement has been drafted to address governance of the operations of the PSERN once completed.*

*Having a single entity operating and maintaining the system infrastructure, rather than four entities doing that work, should result in improved service: when there is a problem with the system we will be able to skip the step of determining which owner is responsible to fix it.*

**Q: Who will run the non-profit organization?**

**A:** *The organization will be governed by a four-person board of directors. One board member will be appointed by each of the following: the City of Seattle; the 5 Valley Communications Center member cities jointly; the 5 Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency member cities jointly; and King County. There will be two additional new members who will be appointed to the cities not otherwise represented on the board—1 non-voting police representative and 1 non-voting Fire representative. Each member will have an equal vote.*

**Q: How long will it take to complete the project?**

**A:** *Once construction begins, it will take approximately 5 years for completion.*

**Q: Why is there a 20% Contingency?**

**A:** *We only have one opportunity for project funding and cannot go back for additional funds. If there are cost overruns, the County would be responsible for them so we need to ensure that a contingency is available. The County has a project management methodology in place, however, on a project this size there are significant risks—specifically site development. As part of the planning phase, the County interviewed internal and external construction consultants and a 20% was contingency the consensus.*



**Q: Why don't the four system co-owners have savings to pay for the capital costs of the new system?**

**A:** *Each of the co-owners put aside some funds for a new system. Over the years of operating the current system savings have been used to fund mid-life upgrades that have kept portions of the network refreshed as well as adding capacity to certain areas. Today these savings in aggregate are very small compared to the cost of a new system.*

**Q: Weren't replacement reserves supposed to be accumulated by the co-owners for system replacement, and if so, why can't they fund the project?**

**A:** *They can, however this is a large project and the accumulated funds are less than 1/20<sup>th</sup> the total project cost. The County and co-owners do not have sufficient available funds to pay for a project of this size without additional revenue. In 1992 when initial planning for the current network was done, a formula to generate replacement reserves was created by each of the four owners. Through time those funds have been used to keep the current system upgraded, and to support early phases of the PSERN project. Even if the funds weren't spent over the years, we would have less than ¼ of the total PSERN project cost because in 1992 no one could have anticipated King County's population would increase so fast nor cover so large an area of the County. Also, because the practice has been to use funds for mid-life upgrades, co-owners need to retain their funds until the PSERN has been completed to ensure they have contingency to maintain the current system.*

**Q: If the County is paying for all the assets, why shouldn't the County operate and maintain PSERN both during the project and after the project is completed?**

**A:** *The County Executive believes that centralization is needed for this regional service and that the best model is to operate and own it using a public, non-profit entity. Current owners have agreed to this approach and have drafted an Interlocal Agreement that will accomplish this.*

**Q: How long will the County need to operate and maintain PSERN after Full System Acceptance?**

**A:** *An Implementation Period Interlocal Agreement contains provisions for automatically transferring PSERN from the County to the non-profit operator once the project is finished..*

**Q: What will happen to PSERN operations and maintenance if the non-profit operator does not take over PSERN at or soon after FSA?**

**A:** *In this event, the County will own and operate PSERN, but only until such time as it can be transferred to the non-profit agency. The Implementation Period Interlocal Agreement contains provisions for partners and users to pay the County for its operation and maintenance of PSERN after PSERN starts operation until the ownership and operations is turned over to the non-profit organization.*



**Q: How can we be sure there will be no need to dip into the Current Expense Fund because of cost overruns or unanticipated expenses? Who will be responsible for cost overruns?**

**A:** *The county and its partners have done much to ensure that all costs have been accounted for in the project budget and subsequent funding measure. Technical consultants were used to analyze needs and assist with development of system requirements. A competitive RFP process was used to get the best system vendor at the best price. As the project goes into implementation, it will be subject to project governance with and external to the County, and also expects to hire an independent Quality Assurance firm, as well as independent construction management to oversee civil radio site work. The combination of these will help contain costs. Lastly, the project has hired a competent and experienced project staff that will utilize project management best practices.*

**Q: How long will the system last before we need to fund a new one?**

**A:** *The new system will last at least 20 years.*

**Q: Today radio system users pay monthly fees for use of the radio system. Could the new system's capital costs be funded through rate increases rather than a tax increase?**

**A:** *This is possible, but not practical. To pay for capital costs monthly fees would need to more than double. Monthly fees are usually paid out of the agency's general funds, so any increase in rates would impact that agency's fund source.*

**Q: Why are there two different rates for radio users?**

**A:** *1. Some radio users use less features than others, therefore providing service for them is less expensive.*

*2. We want to encourage users to use PSERN, especially those that have various types of demands such as school districts and utilities.*

**Q: How does this relate to the discussions I've heard about the possible decrease in the number of 9-1-1 dispatch centers?**

**A:** *There is no relationship between the PSERN project and dispatch center consolidation. They are independent initiatives. System planning has included all of today's centers. If there are fewer centers that are in business when system equipment is ordered, our order and design will be adjusted accordingly. The Interlocal Agreements will also make commitments to continue service to the dispatch centers.*



**Q:** Is there widespread support for a new network and the ballot measure from city elected officials, police and fire chiefs, police and fire line staff, emergency managers, dispatchers, and County Executive?

**A:** *There is a clear, shared vision of the need to replace the current system and build a new radio system now.*

**Q:** There have been some concerns raised by Junior Tax Districts such as Fire Districts about revenues being negatively impacted by the levy lid lift. Is that true?

**A:** *Fire districts should not be harmed due to this measure. Last year, assessed property values in King County increased significantly, so we anticipate that the County tax rate will decrease sufficiently to cover potential impact to all Fire Districts. Other junior tax districts such as Parks and Hospital districts could be impacted in the initial years of the measure.*

**For more information:**

- Project Web site: [www.psern.org](http://www.psern.org)
- Follow us on Twitter: [@radiomatters](https://twitter.com/radiomatters)
- PSERN project staff:
  - David Mendel, Project Director, 206-263-7942
  - Karla Clark- Communications Manager, 206-263-1583
  - Marlin Blizinsky, Government Relations Officer, 206-269-8047

RESOLUTION R-5120

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND SUPPORTING KING COUNTY PROPOSITION 1, A PROPERTY TAX LEVY TO FUND A NEW, UPGRADED REGIONAL EMERGENCY RADIO NETWORK TO BE KNOWN AS THE PUGET SOUND EMERGENCY RADIO NETWORK.

1           WHEREAS, on April 28, 2015, voters in King County will decide  
2 whether to approve a levy for a new, upgraded regional emergency  
3 radio network to be known as the Puget Sound Emergency Radio  
4 Network; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, the current radio system has been in service for  
7 approximately two decades; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, this proposition would provide funding to replace the  
10 County's aging emergency radio network used for dispatching and  
11 communicating with police, fire, emergency medical staff and other first  
12 responders; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, this proposition would authorize King County to levy  
15 at the rate of not more than \$0.07 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for  
16 nine years with collection beginning in 2016; and

17  
18           WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to implement the Puget  
19 Sound Emergency Radio System, a new public safety radio system that  
20 will provide public safety agencies and other user groups in the region  
21 with improved coverage, capacity, and reliability; and

22  
23           WHEREAS, a safe community is an important part of the quality  
24 of life enjoyed by Kirkland residents; and

25  
26           WHEREAS, pursuant to State law, RCW 42.17.130, the City  
27 Council of Kirkland desires to show its support for Proposition No. 1.

28  
29           NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City  
30 of Kirkland as follows:

31  
32           Section 1. The City Council supports Proposition No. 1, a Regular  
33 Property Tax Levy for the Emergency Public Safety Radio Network  
34 Replacement Project.

35  
36           Section 2. The City Council urges Kirkland voters to vote yes on  
37 Proposition No. 1.

38  
39  
40  
41  
42

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Signed in authentication thereof this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk