

# Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System

# LA-RICS



February 10, 2009



# Key Concept

## Communications Interoperability

“The ability of emergency response personnel to share information via voice and data systems on demand, in real time, when needed”







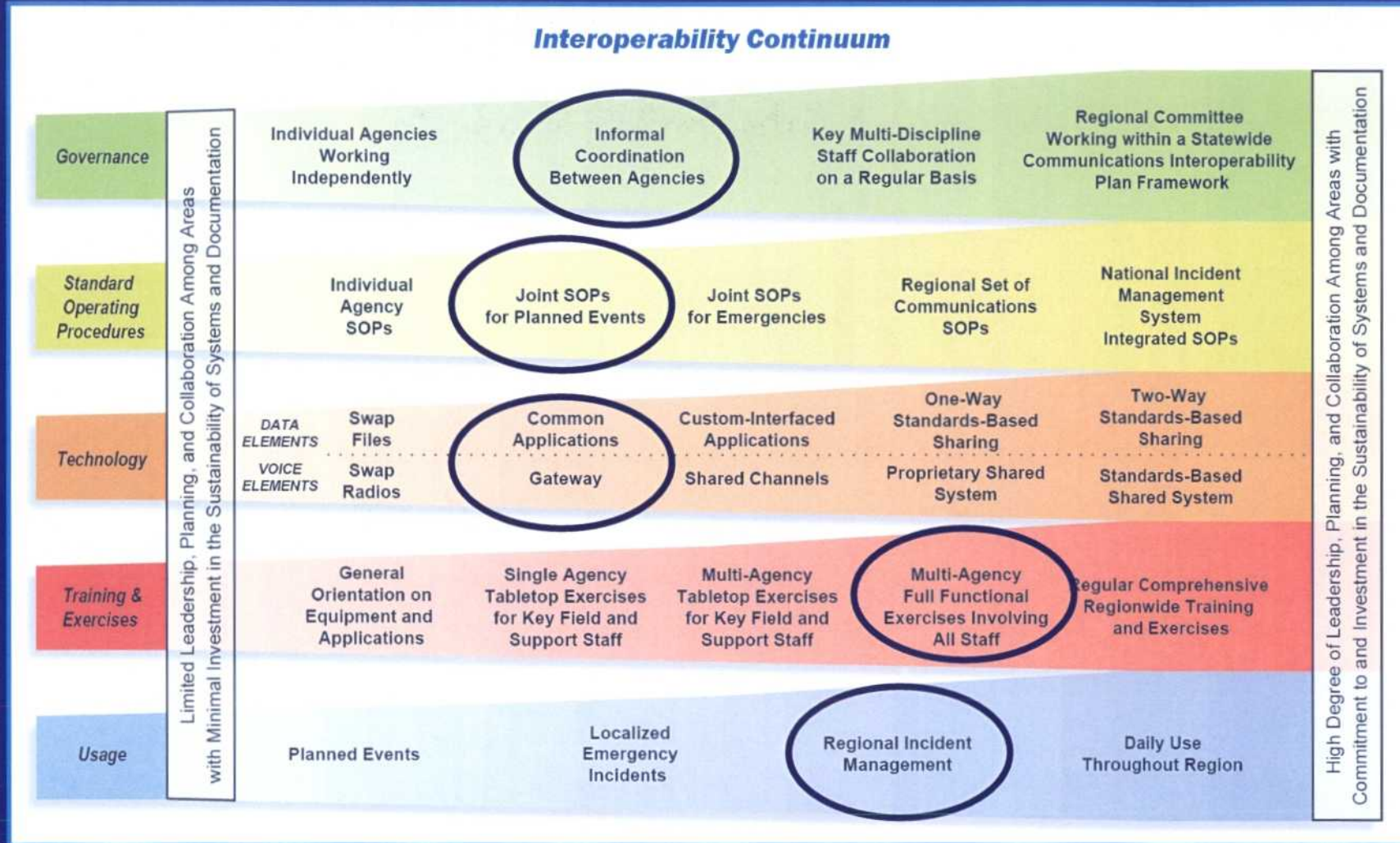
# Current Challenge

## Public safety responders lack true interoperability

- Recent events reinforce the importance of different agencies being able to communicate easily between City departments and to outside agencies during emergencies
- Currently, departments must “patch” their systems together to achieve interoperability



# Interoperability Status







# Future Challenges

- Unfunded FCC mandate will alter frequencies

LB radio systems must be upgraded by January 1, 2013 to provide adequate coverage

- Long Beach must make a significant investment in its radio system

Several options under exploration

Upgrade current system

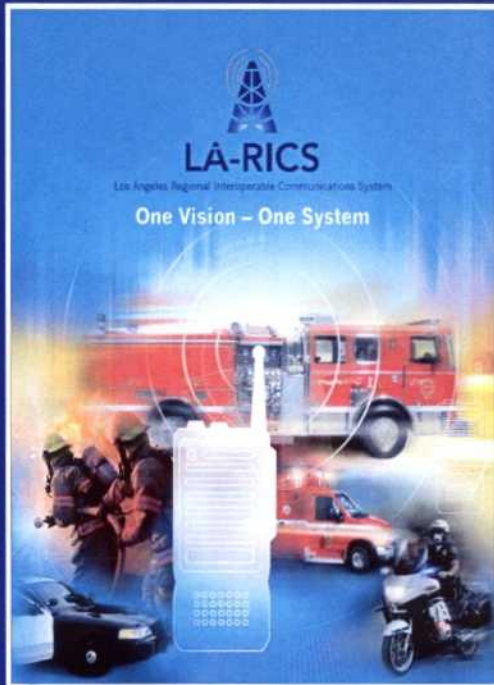
Build a new 700 MHz system

Build a new UHF system

Costs range from \$7-\$30 million



# What is LA-RICS?



- A regional radio "system" not just radios
- For day-to-day incidents, as well as large-scale emergencies
- Integrated wireless voice and data  
Supports 34,000 1<sup>st</sup> Responders
- Shared  
Built using new and existing components:
  - Radio Frequencies
  - Radio Towers
  - Repeater Sites
- Governed by a Joint Powers Authority





## LA-RICS JPA

- The document that creates the JPA was developed over a 2-year period
- JPA was approved by L.A. City and the County Board of Supervisors last week, starting the 45-day clock
- Other agencies have until March 21 to join
- JPA Board is comprised of:

City of L.A. (CAO, Police & Fire Chiefs, Chief Leg. Analyst)

County of L.A. (CEO, Sheriff, Fire Chief)

Director of L.A. Area Police & Fire Chiefs Associations

CA Contract Cities

3 At-Large members rep. independent & contract cities

City of Long Beach



# Timeline & Costs



- Year 1 costs have already been funded by grants
- Financial Plan will be developed under the direction of the newly-formed JPA
- Anticipated that the remainder of project will be largely grant-funded





# City Costs

- Cost to participate will be determined by the financial plan, which will be developed through the City's participation in the JPA
- Each agency may be impacted differently based on contributions of system components





# Summary

## LA-RICS would:

- Provide unified voice and data communications platforms for all first responders in the region
- Support the day-to-day communications needs within individual public safety agencies
- Eliminate the duplication of costs and effort involved in maintaining separate systems
- Provide instantaneous communications among agencies in the event of a man-made or natural disaster





# Recommendations

- Join the JPA

Participate in the development of financial plan

Continued participation in RFP process

No financial commitment; City may opt out at any time

- Staff will continue to evaluate and explore alternatives while maintaining current systems
- Staff will return to City Council with cost information once LA-RICS financial plan is developed

Los Angeles Regional Interoperable  
Communications System

**LA-RICS**



February 10, 2009