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Regional Infrastructure

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Regional Infrastructure

Agencies in the Monterey and Santa Cruz County areas are discussing cooperative mutual assistance plans in the event of natural or manmade disaster situations such as earthquake, flood, fire, epidemic, airport accident, and contamination of food/water sources. The highest priority for this planning effort is common and resilient communications (data, voice and video), as seen in countless unfortunate examples in recent years. First responders need access to each other, to critical information sources (e.g. weather conditions), governance authorities, and the public. Planning should consider pre-event staging and infrastructure development, alternative processes for changing conditions during the disastrous event, and recovery/reconstruction. Communications planning should include permanent, fixed infrastructure that is robust, high speed, reliable, and with redundant routing. It should also include mobile, flexible, accessible communications that are easily and quickly deployed. Finally, it should include levels of outreach to include local, regional, and national communications.

Five strategic objectives are included in the proposal:

1. Strengthening communications between Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. This is important for establishing a significant geographic area grid of communications, effectively crossing municipal, county, and Department of Defense administrative domains, and for providing redundancy and geographic diversity of communications infrastructure and services. Five projects will serve this objective:
 - a. Trench from Monterey County NOC to Level 3 manhole
 - b. Improve connectivity from CSUMB to Marina airport
 - c. Improve connectivity to Moss Landing
 - d. Establish high speed connectivity from Castroville to Watsonville
 - e. Work with UCSC to establish high speed link from UCSC to NPS
2. Establish plans for hastily deployed wireless networks in the event of emergency situations
3. Facilitate the deployment of next generation state of the art public safety radio systems that meet interoperability requirements
4. Establish disaster recovery plan for multiple institutions which would include off-site storage, emergency telephone banks, etc.
5. Establish an "Integrated Knowledge Portal" (IKnow) the vision of this knowledge portal is to create a media rich distributed training and educational medium that can be used as a tool for either structured classrooms or learning on the go. By creating a robust and personalized web portal, members of the community will be driven to the content most relevant to them and be able to access that content from the device of their choice, whether it be a laptop, iPod, or PDA. IKnow will be a place where participants can keep their knowledge up-to-date by attending lectures on the latest advancements in their respective fields. This portal can be the collection of all the expertise that each region has to offer and it is recorded, categorized, and viewable at a moments notice to anyone who has authorization to view it that is the goal of the Integrated Knowledge Portal.

Other strategic objectives that would strengthen regional infrastructure would include better connectivity with the southern coastal route to Big Sur and Gorda and Cambria. This would involve a cooperative relationship with San Luis Obispo County. This could be beneficial to augment the Highway 101 corridor because it meets the 50-mile test for earthquake disaster recovery planning, and by considering the

coastal route to Cambria provides geographic redundancy while at the same time expanding communications reach to all areas of Monterey County.

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