



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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Upgrade to Emergency Communication System Approved

SAN BERNARDINO – On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$8 million plan to replace aging dispatch consoles with more modern equipment that will improve communication between San Bernardino County emergency responders and agencies outside the County.

The existing consoles are about 20 years old and do not allow smooth communication between San Bernardino County emergency responders and outside agencies that use a digital communications system, which has become the system of choice for emergency agencies. In addition, the new consoles will provide emergency dispatchers with modern features that will allow them to communicate better with responders in the field.

“Seamless communication is critical during an emergency, and this major upgrade to our dispatch equipment will greatly enhance the County’s ability to coordinate with agencies during major incidents that require outside assistance,” Second District Supervisor Paul Biane said.

The County’s Information Services Department, which operates and maintains the County’s 800 MHz radio communication system, secured \$5.1 million from the Department of Homeland Security to help purchase the consoles. The department has sufficient funds and credits to cover the remainder of the \$8 million project without use of general fund dollars.

The console upgrades are scheduled to begin this summer and will take about one year to complete.

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