

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NEW RADIO SYSTEM

WHEREAS, North County Regional Fire Authority serves 26,000 in unincorporated Snohomish County and is dedicated to providing high quality and speedy emergency services to our local community; and

WHEREAS, public safety depends on having reliable and effective emergency communications; and

WHEREAS, SERS, the Snohomish County Emergency Radio System, since 1999 has provided a dependable countywide emergency radio service for firefighters use to effectively respond to 911 call emergencies in our unincorporated area; and

WHEREAS, the SERS existing analogue, 800 MHz radio system is now outdated and about to reach its end-of-life in 2020. When that happens it will be increasingly difficult and eventually impossible to maintain reliable radio service between 911 call dispatchers and our firefighter responders; and

WHEREAS, independent expert analysis has determined that a new replacement P25 radio system using modern digital technology will substantially reduce risk of future failure, provide better audio voice quality for simulcast, two-way, interoperable emergency communications; and

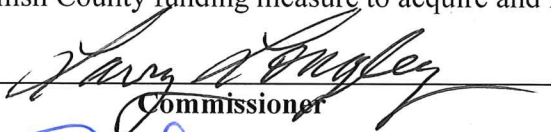
WHEREAS, other counties of similar size in our region have already taken action to replace their outdated 900 MHz radio system with a new P25 digital radio system; and

WHEREAS, a county competitive bidding procurement process was begun on November 17, 2017 to select a qualified vendor to provide a new countywide radio system; and

WHEREAS, a countywide funding for a new radio system must be identified and successfully obtained to replace the existing SERS system that has a replacement cost preliminary estimated to be \$60-\$75 million.


WHEREAS, as Commissioners governing this Fire District, our preferable funding source for a new emergency radio system would be a proposed, voter-approved countywide sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent (as specifically authorized for this sole purpose by RCW 82.14.420). We support this small and dedicated county sales tax increase that would only fund local emergency communications equipment and infrastructure and would not negatively impact future property tax revenue that supports junior taxing districts' operations.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of Commissioners of North County Regional Fire Authority, respectfully urge that Snohomish County government take necessary actions as soon as possible in 2018 to fund replacing the outdated, countywide SERS 911 emergency radio system. We support a Snohomish County funding measure to acquire and install a new P25 emergency radio system in 2018.


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner

Date Approved

Attested Board Secretary