



NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK

Description

The Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) will be designed and operated to meet the public safety communications needs of America's first responders and other public safety workers. The network will provide public safety officials with state-of-the-art wireless broadband technology for emergency response and recovery across jurisdictional boundaries. The network will be based on a national network architecture that can evolve with technological advancements.

Background

In February 2012, Congress enacted The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (the Act) containing provisions to advance public safety capabilities in the United States. The Act directs the establishment of the NPSBN and provides 20 megahertz of spectrum for nationwide use by first responders and other public safety workers.

The Act also created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to establish, deploy, and operate the NPSBN. FirstNet is an independent authority of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and shall direct the implementation of the NPSBN.

California's Goal

California is committed to working with state and local emergency first responders and FirstNet to represent the interests of public safety officials across California and ensure that the NPSBN meets the needs of California's first responders. To help achieve this goal, the California First Responder Network (CalFRN) Board of Directors was established and consists of 12 members.

On August 27, 2012, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. appointed Karen Wong, Assistant Director of Public Safety Communications, as the State Point of Contact, in coordination with Director Mark Ghilarducci of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, to consult with the FirstNet Board.

Key Information

- California was awarded \$5.6 million in federal funds from the State and Local Implementation Grant Program and will contribute \$1.4 million to support state planning efforts to ensure the network meets wireless public safety communications needs. The Act will provide \$7 billion toward the nationwide network build-out.
- FirstNet is responsible for making strategic decisions and ensuring the development and sustainable operations of the network.
- The Federal FirstNet Board consists of 15 members. Three permanent members were appointed by the Act including: the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. The remaining 12 members were selected by the Secretary of Commerce on August 20, 2012.
- The CalFRN Board will provide consultation to FirstNet and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services on strategies and decisions pertaining to the NPSBN.
- The CalFRN Board will hold three public forums beginning in 2014 to share information and initiate local stakeholder input.