



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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June 16, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed ordinance authorizing the King County Executive to execute the PSERN Operator interlocal agreement (ILA) that would, if enacted, create a new nonprofit governmental corporation to run the future emergency radio communications system in King County, known as the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) as called for by Ordinance 18074. The proposed ILA fulfills the requirements of previous agreements: the PSERN Implementation Period Interlocal Cooperation Agreement, which created the PSERN Project, and King County Ordinance 18074. A component of Ordinance 18074 was a Memorandum of Agreement with other emergency radio communications system owners to establish a new non-profit government corporation, the PSERN Operator, to run the future PSERN system.

The PSERN system will serve all of King County and provide communications for nearly 18,000 radios, approximately 200 agencies, and 19 dispatch centers that handle all E-911 response communications throughout the county. Funding for the PSERN Project was approved by King County voters in April 2015 for the purpose of upgrading and expanding the King County Emergency Radio Communications System (KCERCS). Once the PSERN Project is complete, PSERN will provide a reliable, private, and locally-owned system for all emergency response communications throughout King County, including E-911, and other government operations under management of the future PSERN Operator.

Ownership of the future PSERN Operator is established through the Implementation Period ILA and is comprised of 12 partners: King County and the cities of Auburn, Bellevue, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kent, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, Renton, Seattle, and Tukwila. Each of the 12 owner entities will have to approve the PSERN Operator ILA.

The formation of a new PSERN Operator was determined to be the preferred approach after extensive outreach to impacted agencies during 2012-2014. Outreach efforts targeted users of

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KCERCS, including law enforcement and fire chiefs, public safety answering point directors, utilities, hospitals, and schools and other government entities such as utilities. The PSERN Project team continues to perform outreach, provide ongoing informational communications, and conduct meetings with the nearly 200 agencies throughout King County who will use the new system.

The proposed ILA advances the King County Strategic Plan goal of Safety and Justice by enhancing public safety through provision of a reliable and improved emergency communications system. Preparation of this transmittal package required approximately 10 staff hours, costing \$1,372.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. This ILA will meet the requirements of previous local agreements and provide the mechanism for ownership, governance, and maintenance of the life-safety PSERN system supporting E-911 and other important countywide government services.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Kimberly Nuber, Deputy Division Director, Emergency Radio Communications Division, Department of Information Technology, at [knuber@kingcounty.gov](mailto:knuber@kingcounty.gov) or (206) 263-5865.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff  
          Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council  
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive  
Tanya Hannah, Director, Department of Information Technology  
David Mendel, Director, Emergency Radio Communications Division