A Look into
Southern California’s Migration into ALERT2

Presented to:
The ALERT Users Group
25th Flood Warning Systems Training conference & Exposition
Reno, Nevada
By
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May, 2014
An email had been sent out by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on a Flood Emergency Response Grant.

Someone had received this email from DWR and raised the idea of getting the Southern California Agencies together to apply for the grant together.
Why Forces Were Joined

The Southern California network is so entwined that coordinating the move to ALERT2 will be critical.
Ventura Takes the Lead

Ventura used their in house grant writer to assist in putting together the 95 page proposal.

The project manager gathered all needed information from the involved agencies to include in the proposal.

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Ventura County Watershed Protection District

April 2, 2013

Mr. William Croyle, Branch Chief
Department of Water Resources
Hydrology and Flood Operations Office
Flood Operations Branch
3320 El Camino Avenue, Suite 200
Sacramento CA 95821

Subject: Grant Application for Flood Emergency Response Projects Program

Dear Mr. Croyle:

The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) herewith submits three copies of an application for a competitive grant in the amount of $1,046,731 to plan, design, and implement Flood Emergency Response Projects for seven locations.

This application is pursuant to an authorizing resolution of the Ventura County Watershed Protection District Board of Supervisors dated March 26, 2013. The application includes the following forms and support materials:

1. A-1 Application Cover Sheet
2. A-2 Applicant’s Representatives
3. A-3 Project Costs and Benefits
4. A-4 Local Authorizing Resolution
5. A-5 Applicant’s Authority and Capability
6. Attachment B-1 Project Scope of Work and Tasks (Including Exhibit A and Exhibit B)
7. Attachment B-2 Environmental Information Form
8. Checklist of documents needed for a complete application

800 South Victoria Avenue • Ventura, California 93009-1501
(805) 654-2301 • Fax (805) 654-3303 • http://www.ocwatershed.org
The funds that will be received will be less than the original proposal but a great start to getting Southern California rolling forward into the migration of ALERT2.
Network Analysis

A study of the entire Southern California network must be done as required in grant from DWR.

A team was made up in order to perform the study with OneRain, Don Van Wie and David Curtis. The contract is in place with the consulting team and they are moving forward with the study.

The network analysis will establish a plan for not only this phase (the backbone) of the migration to ALERT2 but the entire transition plan into the ALERT2 protocol for Southern California.
The agencies are currently trying to get the approval to sign the MOU. The county agencies need board approval to sign which we are hoping will be completed by the time the network analysis is completed.
In Southern California it may be needed to not only enter site identification information in a shared database like the Source Address Management System (SAMS) but also the transmitting TDMA time of stations and repeaters may be needed.
The network analysis will determine required equipment which needs to be ordered for the first phase. The first phase being the backbone of the Southern California ALERT Network (SCAN).
Equipment Installation

The equipment installation hopefully will not be taking place just before the winter season but in any case a coordination of the installations will need to be made between the different agencies so that critical data is not cut off from those who need it.

This means communication will be the key to a smooth transition to ALERT2.
The Next Phase

The second phase will be the transition of the individual transmitters to ALERT2.

There is most likely going to be additional grants that could be applied for through DWR for the second phase funding.

Otherwise the individual agencies will need to budget for the individual transmitters to be upgraded over time.
Things to Consider

How many different types of gages will need to be upgraded or changed out completely to make the transition to ALERT2?
Upgrading to ALERT2 or New Equipment

What method or combination of methods will be used to upgrade the current transmitters in the field to ALERT2?

If upgrading will you be doing the upgrades yourself, contracting the work out or send the transmitters to the vendor to be upgraded? What would be the most cost effective way to upgrade your system?
Additional Tools to Aid in the Transition

Running elevation profiles could be very helpful in laying out how many transmitters could go through a possible concentrator site locations.
Questions

ALERT2 Schematic