



BayLoop FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is BayLoop?

BayLoop is a broadband digital microwave network that provides connectivity for public safety voice and data communications. The original purpose of this shared network was to serve as a transport system for voice and data traffic to enhance interoperability and connectivity in the region. BayLoop has been configured to support local traffic within participating counties, as well as regional interconnection of Bay Area public safety services.



Who Can Use BayLoop?

BayLoop is a shared regional network, potentially available for any approved use by Bay Area public safety. The network includes hardware and facilities located in eight Bay Area Counties. Using regional interoperability funds, BayLoop was completed over several phases spanning the past seven years. The first phase (referred as the West Side) was completed in 2006, connecting Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. The second phase (referred as the East Side) was completed in 2011, connecting Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Sonoma and Marin Counties.

What Applications Can Run on BayLoop?

BayLoop is configured to interconnect regional public safety radio systems and sites and support the sharing of digital data and voice traffic between counties. BayLoop is, however, a point-to-point network, so any potential services or users must have the ability to interconnect with BayLoop at one of eighteen sites throughout the Bay Area.

Within those parameters, BayLoop can support a wide variety of IP-Based voice and data applications including:

- Data warehouse connectivity (CopLink, Aries, etc.)
- WebEOC
- VoIP phone connectivity between dispatch centers, PSAPs and EOCs
- Other Applications TBD

Although the possibilities are many, BayLoop capacity is not unlimited—therefore, the next step is to develop application guidelines and approval procedures to ensure that applications available on BayLoop have enough bandwidth to run smoothly and efficiently.

Who Manages BayLoop?

In 2012, the BayRICS Authority agreed to establish a system-wide process for BayLoop maintenance and monitoring (M&M), and has secured funding to pay the associated costs of

M&M through December 2015. Although BayRICS oversees the regional bandwidth, individual counties remain responsible for their local usage as well as the coordination of maintenance schedules and site visits by BayRICS contractors.

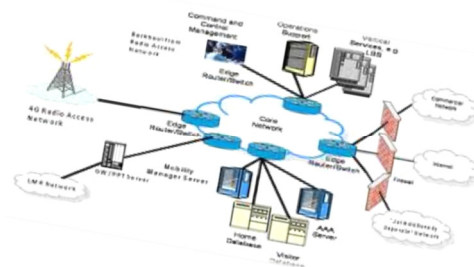
Now that the system is deployed and procedures are in place for maintenance and monitoring, BayRICS seeks to encourage regional use of the network. To maximize network efficiency and ensure seamless operation, several tasks must first be completed, including:

- Develop system use agreements
- Develop application guidelines and approval procedures
- Develop system use, sustainability and expansion strategies

What Is the BayLoop Working Group?

In order to complete these tasks on a regional basis, BayRICS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is working with San Mateo County to establish a network working group made up of decision makers and subject matter experts from each of the eight BayLoop counties. Because BayLoop will support voice and data communications, each county should assign one representative to the working group from each of the following disciplines:

- Dispatch
- Information Technology/Network Admin
- Fire
- Sheriff/Law Enforcement
- Emergency Management or EMS
- Other: Public Health, Public Works, etc.



Initially, this group will meet monthly to develop the necessary agreements, guidelines, and procedures. After key policies are in place, the group will meet quarterly. The BayRICS General Manager will serve as Chair of the Working Group.

What is BayRICS?



The Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communications System Joint Powers Authority (BayRICS) was established in August 2011 to oversee public safety communications projects in the Bay Area. Members of the BayRICS Authority include the State of California, City and County of San Francisco, City of Oakland, City of San Jose, Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and “hub” cities in the East Bay and South Bay. Each member jurisdiction has appointed a representative to the BayRICS Board of Directors.

BayRICS coordinates the build-out and operation of wireless voice and data networks for over 45,000 first responders to help them protect 7.5 million Bay Area residents and 16 million visitors annually. For more information, contact BayRICS Authority General Manager Barry Fraser at bfraser@acgov.org.