



ITD

Innovate • Transform • Deliver

CGJ Radio Report & Monterey County ITD Response

June 23, 2026

Alex Zheng
Deputy Chief Information Officer
County of Monterey



CGJ Radio Report & ITD Response

- Findings

- Radio coverage deficiencies
- Manual switching between NGEN digital/analog
- Some fire districts lack funding for subscriber radio equipment

- Recommendations

- Develop a coverage improvement plan
- Identifying funding sources to help fire districts obtaining subscriber radios

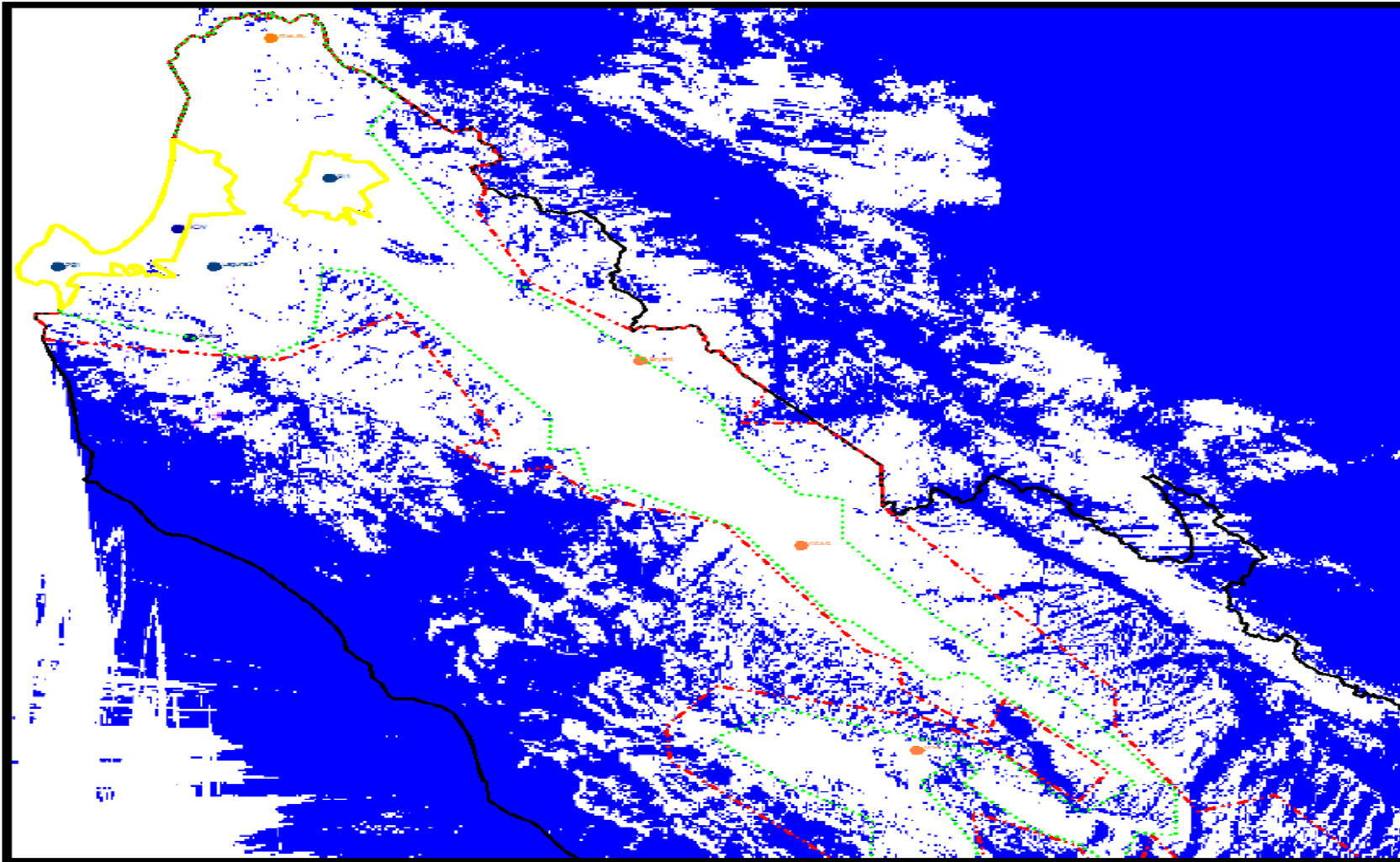
CGJ Radio Report & ITD Response – NGEN & Governance

- NGEN (Next Generation Radio Network)
 - Public safety radio system in Monterey County area
 - 19 cities, special districts and County
- Executive Board
 - Provides policy directions, strategic oversight and overall governance
 - Oversees cost, system nature and scope related decisions
- Operations Board
 - Guides operational policies, goals, and operational enhancements

CGJ Radio Report & ITD Response – Cont'd

- NGEN coverage responsibilities
 - Limited to 19 participating member agency jurisdictions
- 7 out of 14 fire districts in the CGJ Report are not NGEN member agencies
 - Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District
 - Cachagua Fire Protection District
 - Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District
 - Cypress Fire Protection District
 - Mission-Soledad Rural Fire Protection District
 - South Monterey County Fire Protection District
 - Pebble Beach Community Service District

CGJ Radio Report & ITD Response – NGEN Digital System Boundary



Red – mobile
Green - portable
Yellow - inbuilding

CGJ Radio Report & ITD Response – Cont'd

- Performance should be measured based on combined radio coverage
 - 16 out of 19 participating agencies, including 5 of the 7 unincorporated fire districts, exceed 95% mobile coverage
 - Overall mobile radio coverage is approximately 83.69%, and 99.80% population coverage.

CGJ Radio Report & ITD Response – Coverage Deficiency Areas

- Big Sur areas: Big Sur fire district and Mid-coast fire district
- Portions of County unincorporated areas: Monterey County Regional Fire & Monterey County Sheriff
 - Carmel Valley Village, San Benancio
 - Pajaro, Prunedale
 - South county areas including Greenfield Green Bridge, Bitterwater and Highway 25 Corridor, Bryson, San Ardo Oil Field
- North Salinas including Bolsa Nolls

CGJ Radio Report & ITD Response – Coverage Improvement

- Ongoing NGEN digital coverage improvements

- In-building radio coverage implementation policy & standard
- Establishment of Capital Improvement program and 5-year plan
- Traditional LMR coverage improvement

Glen Deven (Mid-coast), Piedras Blancas (HWY 1 SLO County Lighthouse),
Carmel Lobos Ridge & Greenfield site (in progress)

- LTE & FirstNet integration evaluation: Motorola SmartConnect

Motorola APX NEXT radios adoption by Sheriff, Carmel, and Del Rey Oaks

- Future NGEN digital expansion depends on funding and NGEN boards approval

CGJ Radio Report & ITD Response – Cont'd

- Manual switching between NGEN digital and analog
- Subscriber equipment