

**pbscommissions - Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network Coverage in the Gualala Area**

---

**From:** Chris Baker <chris.baker@firstnet.gov>  
**To:** "pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.org" <pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 3/29/2022 8:13 AM  
**Subject:** Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network Coverage in the Gualala Area  
**Attachments:** 03162022 Gualala Site Education Letter.pdf; 062420 Network Management-Operations Officer Letter\_Reed.pdf; Primer FirstNet Authority NPSBN.pdf

---

Please see the attached documentation regarding agency support for improved Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network coverage in the Gualala area.

Sincerely,

Mendocino County

APR 07 2022

Planning & Building Services



**Chris Baker, J.D., P.E.**  
Battalion Chief-Paramedic / Investigator (Ret.)  
Senior Public Safety Advisor – Northern California, Montana, Wisconsin  
U.S. Department of Commerce - First Responder Network Authority

[Chris.Baker@FirstNet.gov](mailto:Chris.Baker@FirstNet.gov)

Mobile: [240-751-8027](tel:240-751-8027)

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message contains information that may be confidential or is otherwise exempt from disclosure under law. Be advised that any review, disclosure, use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this message or its contents is strictly prohibited. This message is intended only for the named recipients. If you have received this message in error, are not a named recipient, or are not the employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to a named recipient, please notify the author immediately if you have received this message in error, and delete the message, including any attachments.





March 16, 2022

Mendocino County Planning Commission  
Commissioner Diane Wiedemann  
Commissioner Macci Morse  
Commissioner Clifford Paulin  
Commissioner Alison Pernell  
Commissioner Marie Jones

501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
Via Email: [pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.org)

RE: AT&T MOBILITY - NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND  
NETWORK NEW CELL SITE APPLICATION – GUALALA AREA

Members of the Planning Commission,

Under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Congress established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) and directed it to ensure the building, deployment, and ongoing operation of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (“FirstNet”), the first nationwide high-speed broadband network dedicated to public safety.<sup>1</sup> The FirstNet Authority’s mission is to provide and maintain a single, interoperable platform that consistently satisfies the demanding communications needs of the public safety community in California and across the country. New radio access network (“RAN”) sites are essential to the success of the program and delivering the mission critical coverage public safety needs to communicate and save lives.

This network has been a top priority for first responders and public safety agencies in California and throughout the country, and has been designed based on their specific, expressed needs, with coverage and capacity being paramount. Coverage enables a first responder to send and receive data, and capacity ensures speed and quality of those communications. New RAN infrastructure connected to FirstNet will improve communication for first responders where that infrastructure has been currently lacking, including the areas in and around the town of Gualala. The FirstNet Authority and our private-sector partner,

AT&T, have worked with the California public safety community to identify coverage needs throughout the state to improve emergency communications in everyday use as well as for large-scale emergencies, such as the recent wildfires that ravaged the state.

In December 2017, Governor Brown opted into the FirstNet Authority plan for RAN deployment in California and thus authorizing construction of the FirstNet network in areas of the state where public safety needs coverage and capacity. By opting-in, the Governor enabled public safety to rapidly access broadband services in California, while also allowing the prompt buildout and deployment of the network which began in March of 2018. His decision also directed the FirstNet Authority to take on all the risks, costs, and responsibilities associated with deploying the network in California for 25 years, and take immediate steps to make prioritized services and features available to public safety in the state.

This network not only meets the needs of the surrounding Gualala area but will also serve the thousands of first responders that have already adopted FirstNet in California and may respond to your next major emergency. Such mutual aid responses could be required in surrounding high fire risk wildland urban interface areas. Considering this is a high wildland fire risk zone, The FirstNet Authority requests your consideration in our efforts to build new sites to achieve required coverage and capacity for our vital mission in service of public safety.

We have two Senior Public Safety Advisors assigned to California: Kevin Nida and myself. We are retired Chief Fire Officers with extensive fire service, law enforcement, and technical experience. We are available to assist you at any time. I may be reached at [chris.baker@firstnet.gov](mailto:chris.baker@firstnet.gov) or (240) 751-8027. Kevin may be reached at [kevin.nida@firstnet.gov](mailto:kevin.nida@firstnet.gov) or (202) 868-7670. For your reference, attached is additional information about the FirstNet Authority and the network we were entrusted by Congress to establish.

Sincerely,

Chris Baker, J.D., P.E.  
Battalion Chief-Paramedic / Investigator (Ret.)  
Senior Public Safety Advisor – Northern California  
First Responder Network Authority

Attachments:

1. Primer on the FirstNet Authority's Congressional Mandate to Deploy a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network.
2. FirstNet Network Management-Operations Officer Letter.

<sup>1</sup> See Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-96), <https://www.congress.gov/112/bills/hr3630/BILLS-112hr3630enr.pdf>



First Responder Network Authority  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, M/S 243 • Reston, VA 20192 • [www.firstnet.gov](http://www.firstnet.gov)

To Whom It May Concern,

On March 28, 2017, AT&T was awarded the federal government contract to deploy and operate the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), following an open, transparent, and competitive procurement process—as well as consultation with state, local, tribal, and federal stakeholders—consistent with the First Responder Network Authority’s (FirstNet Authority) enabling statute. The NPSBN contract between the FirstNet Authority and AT&T has a period of performance of 25 years from the date awarded.

Per the terms and conditions of the NPSBN contract, and given that all U.S. states and territories and the District of Columbia (states) opted into the FirstNet Authority plan for network deployment, AT&T is responsible for providing a comprehensive network solution to each of the states. This comprehensive network solution includes: the deployment and provisioning of a nationwide Core Network and Radio Access Network equipment and services (e.g., cell sites, backhaul, aggregation, national transport networks and operation centers); a device ecosystem; deployable capabilities; operational and business support systems; an application ecosystem; network services; integration, maintenance, and operational services; and ongoing evolution of these systems required to function fully as an operational wireless 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) standards-based Long Term Evolution (LTE) NPSBN.

The FirstNet solution provided by AT&T brings Public Safety Entities across the country a dedicated interoperable broadband network with quality of service, priority usage, and preemption. In addition, the NPSBN is physically hardened, as needed, and is resilient, secure, and highly reliable. Furthermore, the NPSBN provides to public safety agencies local control over prioritization, preemption, provisioning, and reporting.

The NPSBN and associated devices are branded as FirstNet, consistent with applicable laws and regulations. AT&T is responsible for marketing; product management; sales; distribution; customer care; communications; strategic partnership; and network deployment, operation, maintenance, and evolution. However, in accordance with its statutory duties and responsibilities, the FirstNet Authority maintains rigorous oversight of the NPSBN and AT&T’s obligations under the contract.

If you have any questions with regard to this letter, please contact Kimberly Luke at [Kimberly.Luke@firstnet.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Luke@firstnet.gov), 202-868-3683.

Sincerely,

*Richard Reed*

Chief Network Management and Operations Officer (CNMO)

---

First Responder Network Authority



## PRIMER ON THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY'S CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO DEPLOY A NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK

- *Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions*  
([https://firstnet.gov/sites/default/files/TopTenFAQs\\_190906.pdf](https://firstnet.gov/sites/default/files/TopTenFAQs_190906.pdf))
- *FirstNet: The Future of Public Safety Communications*  
([https://firstnet.gov/sites/default/files/Branding\\_the\\_Future\\_of\\_Public\\_Safety\\_Communications\\_0.pdf](https://firstnet.gov/sites/default/files/Branding_the_Future_of_Public_Safety_Communications_0.pdf))
- The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) was charged by the U.S. Congress to ensure the development, building, and maintenance of a nationwide mobile broadband network dedicated to meeting the needs of the public safety community. Over the past several years, the FirstNet Authority has made great strides toward fulfilling this purpose, including the establishment of a public-private partnership with AT&T, Inc. (AT&T) to deploy the nationwide public safety broadband network across the country and adoption of FirstNet service by hundreds of thousands of public safety professionals. As FirstNet matures and public safety reaps the benefits of a network dedicated to providing them with needed capabilities and features, the FirstNet Authority is focusing on the next stages of fulfilling its mission. The FirstNet Authority is committed to a vision where a dedicated and differentiated broadband communications experience transforms public safety operations to save lives and protect communities. This vision encapsulates the entirety of the “FirstNet Experience” from AT&T’s deployment of the FirstNet network to the FirstNet Authority’s value-adding activities and investments, which make FirstNet different from any other public safety communications experience. Over time, the FirstNet Authority’s work will help enable public safety to communicate in new and ever more useful ways to help transform public safety operations. (*First Responder Network Authority Roadmap*, at 3, [https://firstnet.gov/system/tdf/FirstNet\\_Roadmap.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=1055&force=0](https://firstnet.gov/system/tdf/FirstNet_Roadmap.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=1055&force=0)).
- *As with many bold public policy initiatives, the creation of FirstNet ensued from disaster and tragedy. Although the idea that all first responders across the United States should share one nationwide network existed prior to September 11, 2001, the events of that terrible day inspired collaborative action from public safety and Congress. As Congress directed, FirstNet is working toward the deployment of a single, interoperable platform for public safety communications that will bring dedicated priority wireless broadband services to millions of public safety personnel at the local, state, tribal, and Federal levels. . . . Authorized by Congress in 2012, FirstNet will fulfill a fundamental need of the public safety community and is the last remaining recommendation to be addressed of the 9/11 Commission. FirstNet’s mission is to ensure the deployment, and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network (network) for public safety entities. Leveraging Long Term Evolution (LTE)5 technology standards, up to \$7 billion in funding from spectrum auctions, and a nationwide license of 20 MHz of radio frequency spectrum, the FirstNet network is intended to dramatically increase the safety and capabilities of all of those who serve in a public safety capacity, and thereby further protect the American people. Public safety, and thus the American people, will benefit from the availability of a dedicated wireless broadband network prioritized for first responders, the economies of scale afforded by a*



## PRIMER ON THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY'S CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO DEPLOY A NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK

national, commercial standards-based network, and the force of innovation in applications which to date has only been enjoyed by consumers. (2014 Annual Report to Congress, at 1, [https://firstnet.gov/system/tdf/FirstNet Annual Report to Congress-FY 2014.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=644&force=0](https://firstnet.gov/system/tdf/FirstNet%20Annual%20Report%20to%20Congress-FY%202014.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=644&force=0))

- During the events of September 11, 2001 (9/11), first responders could not communicate with each other. Some radios did not work in the high-rise World Trade Center; radio channels were overloaded by the large number of responders trying to communicate; and public safety radio systems operated on various frequencies and were not interoperable. There were also non-technical issues. Officials struggled to coordinate the multi-agency response, and to maintain command and control of the numerous agencies and responders.

The 9/11 Commission called for the “expedited and increased assignment of radio spectrum for public safety purposes.” Increased spectrum would allow public safety agencies to accommodate an increasing number of users; support interoperability solutions (e.g., shared channels); and leverage new technologies (e.g., live video streams) to enhance response.

In 2012, Congress acted on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. In Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-96), Congress authorized the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allocate additional spectrum for public safety use; established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and authorized it to enter into a public-private partnership to build a nationwide public safety broadband network; and, provided \$7 billion out of revenues from spectrum auctions to build the network....

FirstNet has made progress in implementing the provisions in the act. In March 2017, FirstNet awarded a 25-year, \$6.5 billion contract to AT&T to build and maintain the nationwide network for public safety. FirstNet provided AT&T with 20 megahertz (MHz) of broadband spectrum, which AT&T can monetize for public safety and non-public safety use. AT&T is providing FirstNet access to its infrastructure, valued at \$180 billion, and \$40 billion to maintain and improve the network.

In September 2017, FirstNet/AT&T presented states with plans detailing how the network would be deployed in each state. Governors could opt to have AT&T deploy the network (i.e., opt in), or have the state assume responsibility for the deployment (i.e., opt out). By January 2018, all 50 states and 6 territories opted in. This was viewed as a victory for FirstNet, AT&T, and public safety stakeholders who had long advocated for a nationwide network for public safety. (Congressional Research Service, *The First Responder Network (FirstNet) and Next-Generation Communications for Public Safety: Issues for Congress*, April 27, 2018, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45179>)

