

EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

A CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT UPGRADES TO MICROWAVE FOR RELIABILITY AND CAPACITY INCREASE

Overview

Since its formation in 1950, Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) has matured from a small, primarily agricultural-serving agency, to one whose major demands come from residential customers. The population within the current 542-square-mile service area is about 755,000. EMWD's operating budget for 2011/2012 is \$220 million with net assets of approximately \$1.5 billion. Their service area covers much of the eastern part of Riverside County, CA including cities like Temecula, Murrieta, and Moreno Valley.

Upgrading Communication Links

EMWD faced two issues on their legacy wireless communication system. Historically they had deployed links in the unlicensed bands. These links began to experience ever more frequent reliability issues due to radio interference. Also, newer applications such as VoIP, security cameras, facility access control, and SCADA upgrades, required an increase in bandwidth capacity. The decision was reached that the critical nature of the water districts communication system required a move to a more secure system with higher capacity. Licensed microwave was chosen as the solution to their application needs.

EMWD selected the Sky CM Series all outdoor licensed microwave system as their platform of choice. Several links are already in place with planned expansion for the balance of their coverage areas.

Mark Wilson, Senior Network Administrator at EMWD, says that the organization is happy with the choice made, "Installation and configuration was very easy. The out-of-band management option allows us the security needed for our trunked network segments. Solectek has provided important value added services such as pre-sales link planning and fast and efficient responses to technical support questions. They have made our transition to licensed microwave painless and successful with each link that we deploy. We could not be happier with our decision to use the Solectek equipment."

In addition, the high radio output afforded by the CM series has allowed links to operate at extended ranges compared to legacy microwave solutions. This has resulted in a savings for EMWD in up front costs, installation cost and the recurring costs associated with licensed microwave deployment. "Using Solectek for our wireless communication needs leaves no doubt that EMWD is getting the best value and performance currently available."



Solectek CM radio link installation at a major EMWD repeater facility near Winchester, CA

"The Solectek CM Series microwave link is more robust and generally better built than other systems we used before."

Mark Wilson, Senior Network Analyst, EMWD.