

March 6, 2003 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Support for Webcasting LAFCO Meetings

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission agree to support for one year at \$150 a month County Government Access TV plans to implement webcast capability (Annualized cost \$1,800).

DISCUSSION

One purpose of AB 2838, which requires LAFCOs to provide notices and other Commission information to the public through an Internet website, is to expand public awareness of LAFCO activities and to improve the quality of local government.

At the present time Santa Barbara LAFCO meetings are broadcast by the County GATV (Government Access Television, Channel 20), live and as a tape delay. We have received the following from Silvio Motta, GATV Manager, proposing an added method of making LAFCO meetings and information accessible to members of the public:

Mr. Braitman:

As per our discussion, the Santa Barbara County Government Access TV Channel 20 (GATV) is seeking support to provide webcast capability in the near future.

Briefly, web cast is a term used to describe the broadcast of video and audio through the internet. Essentially, any individual with high speed internet access can view and listen to the television coverage of public hearings anywhere in the world.

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GATV has partnered with Cox Business Services to implement a pilot project from now until June, 2003. Our goal is to provide live channel programming on the internet and begin a longer term project goal of archiving and retrieving video and audio data as well. At this time, we are looking for a monthly contribution of \$150.00 for the first year commitment FY 03/04. Please note that this contribution will be contingent to additional match funding approvals from other agencies as well or another sources of funding to make this project viable.

During the first year, we expect to collect information on the usage and further develop the system as an additional public service to the Santa Barbara County resident.

It was nice talking to you on the phone, and if you have a chance please check our test site at <http://qual.gscars.com/GATV/Index.asp> .

Thank you and I am looking forward to your response regarding LAFCO's interest in this project.

Silvio Motta, GATV Manager

The staff supports the Commission's interest in fully informing members of the public regarding LAFCO issues and activities. Since funds are available in the LAFCO budget for this expense the staff recommends that the Commission commit to support this program for a year.

Sincerely,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer

cc: Silvio Motta, Manager, GATV