



ACCESS SACRAMENTO

Chair Robbie Waters
Honorable Members
Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission
828 I Street, Room 527
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Waters and Members of the Commission:

The Community Cable Program Providers, CCPP (Access Sacramento, KVIE, the Religious Coalition for Cable Television, and the Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium) requests the SMCTC condition the acceptance of the proposed AT&T Broadband/Comcast transfer of ownership pending inclusion of the CCPP items agreed upon during the last transfer procedure two years ago. We are concerned that the PEG services provided by CCPP and Metro 14 for eighteen successful years are not clear to AT&T Broadband at this point in the transfer process.

* At the April Commission meeting AT&T made a presentation addressing the "Public Interest" portion of the impending transfer. The AT&T presentation consisted mainly of their charitable contributions to the community. There was no mention of PEG or the commitments made by AT&T in the last transfer two years ago.

*To date, no representatives from AT&T/Comcast have contacted any of the CCPP and, to our knowledge, the documentation obtained by the SMCTC to date has contained little, if any reference to any CCPP or PEG activities as they were defined in the last transfer.

* To maintain the extensive, broad-based, nationally acknowledged efforts of Sacramento County CCPP and their PEG activities that have evolved since 1983, specific language is necessary to avoid any possible confusion should disputes arise in the future.

We respectfully request that SMCTC require AT&T/Comcast to be contractually obligated to support public, education and government (PEG) access at its current level. In order to facilitate the transfer process and to maintain the high standards of PEG activities developed throughout Sacramento County, the CCPP recommend that it is in the public interest for the Commission to conditionally approve the transfer pending the acceptance of the items listed in the Amended and Restated Licensing Agreement and the terms contained in the previously approved AT&T transfer resolution. The current commitment is stated in the following points.

1. Current (managed by Access Sacramento, KVIE, the Religious Coalition for Cable Television, the Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission, and the Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium) and future PEG channels will continue to be carried as part of the lowest cost tier of service.

2. AT&T/Comcast will continue to provide, maintain, repair and operate all PEG upstream capacity and functionality at no cost to the Commission, PEG access providers and subscribers. AT&T/Comcast agrees to update such capacity and functionality as it upgrades its systems.

3. AT&T/Comcast will continue to provide, maintain and repair, at no cost, the fiber pairs from:

- * Sacramento County Office of Education to the cable head-end;

- * Cosumnes River College to the cable head-end;

- * CSUS to the cable head-end;

- *Sacramento City College to the cable head-end and;

- *KVIE to the cable head-end.

4. AT&T/Comcast will continue to provide as currently carried, PEG program scheduling information on the preview channel.

5. AT&T/Comcast will continue to provide promotional activities as currently provided, including the monthly pages in the SECC Cable Guide (which commenced in July of 1998) and the use of local spot avails.

6. AT&T/Comcast will continue to provide, at no charge, cable service (full basic as it existed on 10/25/00) to the following PEG centers:

*Four drops and boxes to Access Sacramento

*Four drops and boxes to the Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium

* Two drops and boxes to KVIE

7. AT&T has maintained the cable radio service as set forth in the franchise agreement. AT&T/Comcast will continue to carry two radio frequencies via the cable system (88.7 cable FM and 89.9 cable FM) distributing these two community radio stations to all cable subscribers. This method of transmission is the only twenty-four hour per day means of receiving the community stations. These services have been provided to Access Sacramento continuously without charge since the beginning of the initial franchise.

AT&T/Comcast will permit Access Sacramento the use of the existing Second Audio Program (SAP) currently allocated to each of the two television channels assigned to Access Sacramento for public access and community use for the purpose of community radio signal distribution. Cost of modulation equipment necessary will be the responsibility of Access Sacramento.

8. AT&T/Comcast will continue to provide full basic cable service (as it existed on, 10/25/00) to all schools, free of charge, regardless of the number of classrooms in each school.

9. AT&T/Comcast will continue to provide, in a timely manner, extended wiring to the schools at personnel and hardware cost. The physical cable will continue to be available at no cost to the schools.

10. AT&T/Comcast will continue to provide free converters to schools so that classrooms may utilize Cable In The Classroom programming regardless of the tier on which the program network is placed.

11. AT&T/Comcast acknowledges that section 5.75.202(d) of the Licensing Ordinance relating to the additional 30 megahertz of bandwidth capacity for both upstream and downstream use for educational access for video and/or data transmission has not been met. AT&T/Comcast will work toward a timely resolution as agreed upon in the AT&T transfer.

12. AT&T/Comcast will continue to provide Cable In The Classroom magazine subscriptions at no charge to educators as currently provided by Comcast Cable. Magazine subscriptions will be provided to the cable contact person at each school plus any educator who attends the Cable In The Classroom training events.

13. AT&T/Comcast will continue to provide at no charge, Cable In The Classroom programs (regardless of what tier the programming is on) and to sponsor the annual Cable In The Classroom training event currently provided by AT&T.

14. AT&T/Comcast will accept AT&T's commitment to provide free cable modems and broadband service to all private and public schools, and libraries in the franchise area as agreed to in the Comcast Social Contract.

15. AT&T/Comcast will maintain AT&T's contractual commitment, per the AT&T Transfer documents, to actively participate in pilot/demonstration projects and programs with educational institutions as AT&T deploys new and emerging technologies.

SECC, KVIE, the Religious Coalition for Cable Television, and Access Sacramento (CCPP) each recommend the addition of this language to the transfer agreement. The CCPP recommendation is in the public interest and clearly signals SMCTC expects AT&T/Comcast to support public, education and government (PEG) access at its current level. This contractual obligation mirrors the obligation agreed to by AT&T during the last transfer. We appreciate SMCTC's consideration of our input and their commitment in maintaining the current level of support for community programming.

Passed Unanimously by the Access Sacramento Board of Directors April 18, 2002

Ron Cooper
Executive Director
Access Sacramento

cc: Rich Esposto, Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission

