

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 5/10/99
Department Name: County Administrator
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 5/25/99
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: 20 mins.on Hrg Date 06/15/99
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael Brown
County Administrator

STAFF CONTACT: Zandra Cholmondeley
Cable Franchise Manager Ext 3261

SUBJECT: Adoption of enabling Cable Franchise Ordinance

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:
Set June 15, 1999 as the date to consider Introduction (First Hearing) of an ordinance enacting a new chapter of the Santa Barbara County Code to be known as Chapter 41, Cable Systems And Open Video Systems and amending Chapter 2, Articles X1A and X1B.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation aligns with Goal 1: An efficient government able to respond effectively to the needs of the community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On April 22, 1997, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to update the County's ordinance pertaining to cable franchises, Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 2, Articles X1A and X1B. This proposed new ordinance replaces Articles X1A and X1B and reflects changes in federal and state laws including the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 (referred to as the "Cable Act") and the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

The proposed ordinance sets forth the procedure and requirements governing cable franchises in Santa Barbara County. In addition to State and Federal laws governing cable operators, local jurisdictions are empowered under the Cable Act to set certain standards and to ensure a "level playing field" for cable companies operating within their jurisdictions.

A copy of the draft ordinance has been provided to the cable companies with an opportunity for comment. The proposed draft ordinance will be forwarded to the Board with the agenda of June 15, 1999.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The County is not mandated to have a cable ordinance. However, the existing ordinance is out of date and does not comply with Federal and State Laws.

Concurrence: County Counsel