

June 28, 2005

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
San Rafael, CA 94903

Subject: Request to issue letters indicating the Board's appreciation of State Senator Carole Migden and federal representatives as appropriate in regard to the restoration of FM radio service by Comcast Cable Communications, Inc. for Marin residents

Dear Board Members:

Recommendation: On behalf of Supervisor Adams, it is requested that the County thank State Senator Carole Migden and federal representatives as appropriate in regard to the restoration of FM radio service by Comcast Cable Communications, Inc. for Marin residents. Authorize President to issue letters as appropriate expressing the Board's appreciation.

Summary: In February of this year, Comcast Cable Communications, Inc. terminated access to FM radio broadcasts available to Marin County residents as a programming service through their cable television subscription, citing a need to use its bandwidth for higher demand services like high-definition television and on-demand video. In Marin County and other parts of California, hilly terrain means that cable is the only way to receive FM radio signals with vital public affairs programming, news, traffic reports, and emergency broadcast information.

Comcast recently announced a plan to provide about 30 FM stations over the cable TV network by September 30, 2005 in response to the demand for the service. It will be available free to Comcast's digital cable subscribers, while basic cable subscribers will have to pay \$5 a month to receive the service through a digital converter box.

Thanks largely to Senator Migden, and also with the assistance of Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey and U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, Comcast announced a solution that will restore the service to Marin residents without impairing Comcast's ability to maximize its bandwidth. Your board is requested to consider issuing letters of appreciation as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark J. Riesenfeld,
County Administrator