

March 18, 2008

Board of Commissioners
Housing Authority of the County of Marin
Marin County Civic Center
San Rafael, California 94903

SUBJECT: Terminate bulk-rate cable contracts with Comcast for all properties

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the executive Director to terminate all Comcast bulk-rate cable contracts effective 12/31/08.

SUMMARY: Marin Housing contracts for discount cable services through Comcast in an effort to provide the service to very-low income residents. Over time, some residents have declined to pay for the service and MHA has no other funds available to cover this expense. Comcast is mandated to move to digital service in 2009, and now desires to terminate the bulk contracts in order to prepare for the change to digital. Staff is recommending that the service be terminated effective December 31, 2008 providing maximum lead time for our residents to prepare/budget for individual residential cable service. Staff will work with Comcast to provide information kiosks at each location to give residents the benefit of first time service and any related discounts as well as provide several notices to our residents throughout the next nine months.

FISCAL IMPACT: Annually, MHA writes-off about \$20,000 - \$25,000 from bad cable debt.

Barbara Collins
Executive Director