

**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: 1/31/06
Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 2/14/06
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown
County Executive Officer

STAFF CONTACT: Zandra Cholmondeley
Principal Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: Transfer of Funds to the Community Media Access Center

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve the transfer of \$200,000 from the Public Access Fund to the Community Media Access Center to comply with the provisions for Public Access in the franchise agreement with Cox Com Inc.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On December 11, 2001 the Board adopted Ordinance 4439 entitled *An ordinance of the County of Santa Barbara Granting a Cable Communications System Franchise to Cox Com Inc.* One of the several provisions of the ordinance concerned the transition of the management of Public Access from Cox to a non profit entity which would operate a Public Access Center. To enable the transition, the County of Santa Barbara made financial provisions for the Public Access Center through this franchise as follows:

- A voluntary donation of \$1,700,000 from Cox Com to be used for operating or capital purposes by the Access Center
- A capital endowment of \$1,000,000 from which earned interest could be used for capital purposes
- A capital grant in the amount of \$250,000 which could be used immediately by the Access Center for capital purposes
- A second capital grant in the amount of \$200,000 to be paid directly to the Access Center no later than Jan 1, 2003

The requested transfer of funds (Attachment 1) concerns the second capital grant of \$200,000 which was timely paid to the County of Santa Barbara and deposited into the Public Access Fund ((Fund 0040), instead

of being paid directly to the Access Center as specified in the franchise. The interest earned on these funds was deposited into the endowment designation, withdrawn by CMAC and used for capital purposes. The Community Media Access Center has now requested that the funds be released as specified in the franchise. Approving the transfer of funds would correct the inadvertent deposit into the Fund held by the County for Public Access purposes.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The franchise with Cox Communications provides that: “No later than January 1, 2003, Grantee shall provide a second PE Capital Grant in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) directly to the Access Center to be used for the same purposes as described above”. County Service levels will not be impacted by this transfer.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts to the County associated with this transfer.

Concurrence:

Bob Geis, Auditor Controller

cc: Hap Freund, Executive Director, Community Media Access Center