

county of ventura

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
M. L. "Lin" Koester
Chief Administrative Officer

December 1, 1998

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Honorable Charles Campbell
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Ventura County Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: VENTURA COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT
CABLE TV PUBLIC ACCESS & TELEVISION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Dear Judge Campbell,

The following is provided in response to the subject report.

Findings:

1. Concur.
2. Partially concur. GTE Americast is the only franchisee that currently collects a fee to support government access equipment and programming, not public access. (If the Board of Supervisors decides in favor of televising board meetings, the Public Works Agency will negotiate for the collection of such a fee by other franchisees as they renew their franchises.)
3. Several Board members have expressed support for televising Board meetings. (See recommendations.) To my recollection, no discussion has occurred which validates your concern on "grandstanding."
4. Concur.
5. Concur.
6. Concur.
7. Concur.
8. Concur.

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Recommendations:

Recommendation 1 speaks of public access service and neither the Board of Supervisors nor county staff has recommended public access service be required in cable franchises. The discussion thus far has been on a government channel. Recommendations 1 and 2 are policy decisions that should be made by the Board of Supervisors. At its September 22, 1998 meeting, the Board of Supervisors asked staff to report back on several issues. Supervisor Schillo's Office, the Chief Administrative Office, and the Public Works Agency will gather the necessary information and report back to the full Board for policy direction.

Recommendation 3 has been referred to the County Clerk and Recorder (Clerk of the Board Division) for comment.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Ruffin of the Public Works Agency at 654-2084 or Terry Dryer of the Chief Administrative Office at 654-2862.

Yours truly,



Lin Koester
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Board Members
Grand Jury
Clerk of the Board
Arthur E. Goulet