



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** August 18, 2020

**TO:** Jim Throop, City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Gracyk, Broadband Services Administrator  
r\_gracyk@ci.lompoc.ca.us

Gregg Ratcliff, PEG Station Manager  
g\_ratcliff@ci.lompoc.ca.us

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Resolution No. 6359(20) Approving Supplemental Appropriations for Purchase of Digital Video Equipment for Cablecasting and Webstreaming of Three Community Access Cable Channels (TAP TV)

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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6359(20) (attached) approving supplemental appropriations of \$60,000 to purchase replacement digital video equipment for cablecasting and webstreaming of community access cable channels.

### **Background:**

The City was granted the public access duties from Comcast Cable in 2003. The original agreement intent was for Santa Maria and Lompoc to operate as one organization. In 2008, by mutual consent, the two organizations assumed individual control of the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) operations in their respective cities. The City then purchased the video broadcast equipment required to deliver content to the Comcast headend in Santa Maria.

### **Discussion:**

The City purchased the current equipment in 2008 from Synergy Broadcast Systems. The equipment has experienced a number of failures and refurbishments over time. The most recent failure of the video router has highlighted the need for replacement of the entire video delivery system.

Current functionality is limited to live broadcasting from the Council Chamber on Channel 23 and the bulletin board during non-meeting times; and the bulletin board only on channels 24 and 25.

The current production method generates content in an analog format. Comcast has indicated, at some point in the very near future, content will be required in a digital format. This request for funding will allow both needs to be fulfilled – equipment update and delivery upgrade.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Supplemental Appropriations of \$60,000 are requested to purchase the equipment needed to return PEG to an operational status. The estimate is based on a similar Santa Maria Community Television (SMCTV) equipment replacement project that was executed in November of 2019. Any funds not used will be returned to the General Fund. The request for equipment replacement was made in the budget, but was not included in the Capital Outlays section of the Biennial Budget Fiscal Years 2019-21.

**Conclusion:**

The purchase of video switching, storage, and delivery equipment is overdue and will enable staff to continue to provide the cablecasting and webstreaming service of public meetings and community produced content.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard Gracyk, Broadband Services Administrator

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Gregg Ratcliff, PEG Station Manager

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:**

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George Morrow, Interim Utility Director

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

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Jim Throop, City Manager

Attachment: Resolution No. 6359(20)