

From: "Robert Gurss" <RGURSS@shb.com>
To: <DYOUNG@fcc.gov>
Date: Monday, August 07, 2000 4:58:27 PM
Subject: Re: STA Request for Los Angeles County, File # 0330-EX-ST-2000

I am sorry to report that the ARRL and the Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association (SCRRBA) are now refusing to cooperate with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department regarding its pending Request for Special Temporary Authority to provide essential public safety communications in the 2402-2450 MHz band during the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. As reported to you on Friday, SCRRBA had initially indicated a willingness to attempt to coordinate with the County concerning its STA. However, an ARRL official in Southern California informed a member of the Sheriff's Department that he would urge SCRRBA not to cooperate as the STA would lend support to the County's pending Application for Experimental Authorization, which ARRL has opposed. These objections appear to be based on a general policy of preventing non-amateur use in amateur bands, rather than evidence of likely interference. Indeed, both SCRRBA and ARRL representatives have suggested to the County that it simply have an amateur radio licensee ride in Sheriff's helicopters during the video downlink operations, thus making it an amateur operation. However, how will that change the potential for harmful interference? Obviously there is none. While placing amateur licensees in the helicopters may be a last resort, it would place severe constraints on the Sheriff's operations, which require 24 hour, 7 day a week capability.

The County has great respect for the amateur community, and has worked closely with many amateur radio operators and organizations on public safety related matters. Indeed, many of the County's radio engineers working on this project are themselves amateur licensees. However, in this instance, the County believes that the amateur radio organizations are blindly building a wall around a frequency band, with a result that the safety of life, health and property will be compromised.

The County must have authority to operate its airborne video operations this week as part of "war games" being organized in preparation for the DNC by public safety agencies, the media, and other organizations. Therefore, the County requests the Commission's immediate consideration of its STA request. If necessary, the County is prepared to limit its operations under the STA to frequencies above 2417 MHz.

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From the law offices of Shook, Hardy, Bacon LLP.

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