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Supplementary Material for Experimental STA Application

Background

The Ephemerisle Floating Festival is an annual waterborne gathering near Mandeville Tip County Park in the the Sacramento Delta region. Interest has been expressed in an "event radio" station at the 2012 event (planned for June 6-10, 2012), for the purpose of transmitting audio material (such as announcements for visitors, live and recorded music, and other information and entertainment programming).

The present application seeks authorization to operate such a station on an experimental basis, emitting low-power transmissions (compatible with standard portable receivers) in the FM broadcast band. The proposed station will be operated by the Licensee without compensation, as a community service for the Festival, and will accept material for transmission (including recordings, requests for announcements, and/or live performance feeds) from attendees at the event.

Planned station facility

The station will consist of portable equipment operated aboard one of the boats at the Festival, and will include a basic studio setup (with audio controls and inputs for an announcer's microphone and other program sources), as well as the licensed transmitter (feeding a simple non-directional antenna).

The authorized power (1 Watt) requested in the application represents the advertised output power available from the planned transmitter. It may be found desirable to use less than this maximum level, depending on the results of the planned experimentation with a range of transmitted power levels, whose intended outcome is to establish a usable level sufficient for clear reception throughout the Festival area, without overloading receivers on boats adjacent to the transmitter location. To this end, the experimental accessories of the station will include a set of fixed attenuators for connection between the transmitter and antenna for adjusting the operating output level.

Intended use of requested authorizations

The "Antenna 1" authorization (marine mobile operation, 1 Watt at 95.3 MHz) is for operation (as described above) at the actual event area. (This frequency was selected based on a review of station locations listed on the FCC web site.) The "Antenna 2" authorization (portable operation, 30 mW at 90.7 MHz) is for preliminary test operation at or near the Licensee's residence address. (This alternate frequency was selected to avoid broadcast signals audible at the planned test location.)

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