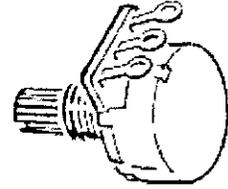


DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SHAWN M. COVERT
559.435.6158
559.773.1525

RECEIVED
JUL 30 1999
FCC MAIL ROOM



7/26/99

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW TW-A235
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-25
Low Power FM

To whom it may concern,

Enclosed is an original written comment concerning low power FM radio. Nine copies have been included for the commissioners.

Thank you for your time,

Shawn M. Covert

No. of Copies rec'd 019
List ABCDE

1548 W MILLBRAE AVENUE
FRESNO CALIFORNIA 93711
SHAWNCO@FSNW.COM

7/23/99

RE: Docket No. 96-45

RECEIVED

JUL 30 1999

FCC MAIL ROOM

As a musician and recording engineer, I extremely encourage the Federal Communications Commission to allow low power radio stations back on the air. Being an individual who cares very deeply for music I would like to stress the importance of what these stations can do for the musicians of communities where music is not getting enough support. As a citizen of my city and community I would also like to emphasize the significance that a low power station could have on establishing closer, more personal community throughout my city. This would include helping young people to learn more about roles in their community, supporting local businesses of a community and even aiding in the reduction of criminal activity in our city.

I'd like to describe briefly, my hometown of Fresno California. Fresno is located in the Central Valley and has a population of nearly 900,000 people. There are approximately forty Commercial radio stations in the Valley. Out of the commercial stations there are close to twenty-five owners. Out of these owners about twelve of them are local to the Central Valley area. The problem that I see with this, is that it means management of most of these stations is less likely to provide services for the community unless there is a considerable profit attached.

In Fresno there are two places where young people go for entertainment: The Tower District and River Park Shopping Center The Tower District is named for our somewhat famous Tower Theatre and is located more in the center of town. It's about two square miles composed of small homes, apartments, locally owned businesses and a community college. The Tower District is probably the most culturally rich part of town.

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List ABCDE

Sadly the local business have trouble keeping stable business and community events have difficulty being supported.

The River Park Shopping Center is one of the newest and fastest growing areas of town. It's currently attracting more apartments and homes to be built in the northern part of town. The Shopping center is complete with a 21-screen movie theatre, restaurants and large business chains like *Best Buy* and *Borders*. The problem that I see with River Park is a lack of activities in the area other than shopping. As the city expands it's losing its sense of community.

I can't demand that high power FM radio stations be expected to suit the needs of every person in the city nor would I expect them to be able to. This is where Low Power Radio would become helpful. By generating a local poll by mail or businesses in the area, a low power licensee could determine what people are not getting from the full power stations and try to accommodate their needs.

I feel that even though 95% of adults are listening to radio, they're needs are being largely ignored. This is not necessarily because of a lack of entertaining or educational programming, but a lack of targeting for a small geographic area. Today most FM stations in the Valley can have up 70,000 WATTS The range for a station of this power (providing the transmitter is in the mountains) could possibly be as much the distance from Fresno to San Francisco! What this means is that for an FM radio station is that it must provide formation, specific to an area this large leaves little room for fulfilling all the requests of *everyone* in their range. Low power radio could help the situation by personalizing the listeners needs.

Benefits of Micro Radio:

Something as exciting as micro-radio would be largely beneficial to Fresno in many ways.

Low power radio could be effective in the reduction of Gang violence. Younger people can get involved with their community radio station or learn to better communicate with each other instead of getting involved with gang violence.

Support for small local businesses would be greater since advertising could be more affordable and might help encourage people to shop from their neighbor rather than a WAL-MART which would be a commercial radio buyer.

Events at small restaurants and clubs in specific areas could be advertised, encouraging people to support clubs and local music and unwind on the weekends. This would also help musicians who are constantly looking for places that will support them by playing their music on the air and promoting their appearances over radio.

With Local business help, citizens of Fresno could put events together and spread the word throughout other neighborhood radio stations to restore life to the downtown. The problem with Fresno is that it is lacking what many other cities it's size have. Fresno is lacking a downtown life. At night many people are afraid to go downtown, when this should be where people go to get together.

. It could improve the atmosphere of places like River Park, which lack a sense of hospitality and fellowship.

High Schools and Junior High Schools could use micro-radio for on-campus stations. It could be used to inform students of activities and encouraging students to become more involved with their school and peers. Those in the neighborhood could be informed of school activities like fundraisers. Those who are interested in seeing where their tax money goes could be informed on new additions to the school.

Police could be aided by having their own stations in many areas of the town informing the public on missing persons, estate sales, recent break-ins and auto thefts.

Like the police, the City and County can use these radio stations to inform citizens on changes in bus routes, detours, traffic tips, public markets and auctions.

I believe that Low Power Micro-Radio is essential to the growth and rebirth of sociability in my city and many other cities throughout the United States. I trust that the Federal Communications Commission will make the right choice for people everywhere.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn M. Covert', written over a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Shawn M. Covert