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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Frank Bardacke  
Educational Director  
Watsonville Human Rights Committee  
218 Prospect St  
Watsonville, CA 95076

September 9, 1999

Magalie Roman-Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* presentation in MM Docket 99-25 ✓  
RM-9208  
RM-9242

Dear Ms. Salas:

Today, the following people and myself visited with members and employees of the Commission: Olga Diaz, President of the Watsonville Human Rights Committee; Elias Cosio; Nancy Hernandez; and Cheryl Leanza and Bill Carmany of the Media Access Project. We met with Commissioner Tristani and her Legal Advisor Rick Chessen; David Goodfriend, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Ness; Marsha MacBride, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Powell; Tom Power, Legal Adviser to Chairman Kennard; and Helgi Walker, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth.

The purpose of our visits was to demonstrate our strong support for the Commission's proposal to create a new Low Power FM radio service. We described the previous efforts of Watsonville Human Rights Committee in our communities and their use of low wattage stations to serve community members. We described the types of programs which are most useful to us, and how our needs go unfulfilled by current, full power broadcasters. We emphasized positive examples from our own station, a small farming community with a seventy percent Hispanic population. These examples include Mexican music not available elsewhere, local news, programming directed at children, high school students, and parents, and intensely local programming such as coverage of children's soccer leagues. The people of Watsonville would benefit, in particular, from a wide array of bilingual programming. We believe Low Power radio would amplify our needs and concerns and strengthen our community.

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Pursuant to section 1.1206(2) of the Commission's rules, two copies of this letter are being filed today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Bardacke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "F".

Frank Bardacke

cc: Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Mr. Rick Chessen  
Mr. David Goodfriend  
Ms. Marsha MacBride  
Mr. Tom Power  
Ms. Helgi Walker

## Radio Watson: "La frecuencia del cambio en el valle del Pajaro"

Radio Watson was on the air from February of 1997 to September 1998. It was 16 Watts, housed in an office in downtown Watsonville, and could be heard by about 35,000 people. Weekday programs went from early afternoon until midnight, while the weekend programs started in the morning and also lasted until midnight. All but two programs were in Spanish; there was one weekly local news program in English, and one English language music show. The Spanish programs included: local and international news; an interview program which focused on local community members; a children's program which often featured performances by local public school children; a poetry show hosted by a teacher/poet from the local community college; a sports program which included the results of local soccer leagues, scores and commentary on Mexican futbol games, and interviews with local adults who help in youth sports programs; and various call-in music shows which featured types of Spanish music (mostly Mexican) not available on the nearby commercial radio stations. The station publicized community events and was available to local agencies who wished to make public service announcements.

About two dozen people worked on the station, most of them local Latino community college students. We also had a program run by local high school students, as well as programs hosted by nursery, cannery, and farm workers, and people who work in local social service agencies. Two programs were hosted by local school teachers. All of the programs were locally produced, and almost all of them went on the air live.

The station was begun by the Watsonville Human Rights Committee, a small group founded mostly by young people in local church groups. The Committee has been active in battles for educational reform, low-income housing, and preservation of agricultural land in the Pajaro Valley, as well as support for democratic struggles in Mexico. The Human Rights Committee has no paid staff, and a budget of about two thousand dollars a year which goes to office rent and the telephone bill.

Although there are a few commercial Spanish language stations in the area, there is no other non-commercial station whose signal can be heard clearly in the Pajaro Valley. This, despite the fact that the area is two-thirds Spanish surnamed. Radio Bilingue in Salinas (KHDC, 90.9 FM) can sometimes be heard in our valley, but not regularly. But Radio Bilingue does not have a local news show and much of their programming is produced in other areas. KHDC has been very supportive of our station, even giving us some of their discarded equipment. The kinds of programs we produce are simply not offered by any other local station.

The Watsonville Human Rights Committee originally bought the equipment to start the station for \$250. Since then we have put about \$250 more into upgrading it. The quality of our sound is excellent. We can not possibly pay for a regular 100 watt station, nor do we even want the kind of range that such a station would have. Rather, we would like a license to continue our low wattage programming so that we can continue to work with other community members in producing non-commercial, community controlled, Spanish language radio.

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