

MM 99-25

**Correspondence regarding: DOCKET 99-25**

**From the desk of Fr. Ted Ley, SM**

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**The Schola  
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of the Pacific.**

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MAY 12 1999

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6 May 1999

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

An initial survey of townspeople in Wrightwood, California, has led me to conclude that the people of this hamlet in the mountains above Los Angeles would be very interested in a micro- or low power noncommercial community radio station such as those the licensing of which is now being considered by the Federal Communications Commission.

Wrightwood is in a fringe area; the mountains enclosing Wrightwood's Swarthout Valley block most television and a significant number of nearby and regional FM and even AM stations. These same mountains would protect a Wrightwood community station from same-channel or adjacent-channel interference to or from most of these same nearby stations whose signals do not directly reach nor circle into the Swarthout Valley.

Wrightwood's elevation, mile-high, is similar in broadcast receptability to towns in the Rocky Mountains or High Sierras. A ten-watt FM transmitter with an antenna only a few feet high would provide the four-mile Swarthout Valley a Community Calendar, presentations of local events, and what has been mentioned often by senior citizens, emergency road information after snows, and updates on forest fires. In the past several years, two such fires reached valleys next to Wrightwood. Wrightwood is situated along the San Andreas Fault: earthquake information could also be provided. Wrightwood is sometimes without power after a storm. A local radio station with its own little generator could provide storm information to that majority of townspeople who have portable radios for that purpose.

The population of Wrightwood, less than 4000, cannot support a commercial station; yet Wrightwood's emergency needs are sufficiently continuous to justify a full-time license. While it would be unrealistic to expect Wrightwood to achieve with volunteers, full time programming, Wrightwood, with such a station as the type contemplated by the FCC, would have its public safety and way of life greatly enhanced. One primary purpose in broadcast licensing would seem be to accommodate such small towns.

What began my personal interest is that in Wrightwood I maintain a mountain retreat for a choir school, where this summer we dedicate a recording studio of sound-processing equipment donated by benefactors in the industry. Upon discovering the FCC might license micropower stations, I realized our studio would be one apt location for the creation of local programs. Upon consulting neighbors, including officers in the Property Owners and Chamber of Commerce, I have seen only immediate interest in a station all who are part of Wrightwood would together apply for, install and operate.

*Theodore C. Ley*

- Rev. Theodore C. Ley, SM, D.Mus.Ed.

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