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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

January 30th, 2013

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Received & Inspected

FEB 11 2013

FCC Mail Room

Subject: Petition Docket 09-19

The North Tahoe Fire Protection District services 31 square miles on the northwest shore of Lake Tahoe, California; an area subject to forest fires, floods, avalanches, snow events, and back-country emergencies. Serving mountain communities in the Sierra Nevada's provides additional egress challenges associated with small mountain roads and population that double during peak tourist seasons.

In the summer of 2007, we experienced two large fires that presented life safety challenges to our responders. The most immediate danger was that of a local, fast spreading, wind-whipped wild-land interface fire burning through a residential neighborhood. Secondly, evacuees gridlocked several communities as they attempted to escape the fire through a single means of egress, both impeding emergency vehicles and endangering citizens lives. The "After Action" report identified a need to disseminate real time, information to both our local citizens and visiting public.

In response, the District acquired three portable AM transmitters, hired a Public Information Officer, and formed a Citizen's Emergency Information Team to deploy the transmitters in urgent and emergent circumstance.

As an example, last year all "Red Flag" fire watch days were announced through these emergency broadcasts and a new public awareness of fire weather was established. Later in the year, our portable AM broadcast transmitters were utilized to prepare the public for the dangers of an approaching early season winter storm, that brought heavy precipitation, compromised structures, caused avalanches and power outages.

The Public Information Officer has continued to educate our citizens of the importance of committing our AM frequency to their memory. The District has proved these portable AM transmitters as a reliable and now essential tool for communicating with our communities. The District believes that any limitation on our ability to utilize these transmitters will jeopardize public safety within our communities. Please consider the dangers to public safety as you review Docket 09-19.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Schwartz", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Schwartz, Fire Chief

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