

July 24, 1985

PUBLIC HEARING
TO SEEK COMMUNITY
INPUT IN EVALUATING
THE PERFORMANCE OF
THE KING VIDEOCABLE
COMPANY (CABLE TELEVISION)
AND TO IDENTIFY FUTURE
COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR
CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE

499-481
Notice thereof having been published in accordance with law and affidavit of publication being on file in the office of the City Clerk, Mayor Hinchman called for the Public Hearing to seek community input in evaluating the performance of the King Videocable Company (Cable Television) and to identify future community needs for cable television service.

The matter was introduced by City Manager Peterson who advised that the City Council recently received a request from King Videocable Company, the CATV system operating in the City of Lodi, for a renewal of the company's franchise to provide cable television service. The first appropriate step in this process is the holding of a public hearing to seek community input

RECEIVED

1985 JUL 24 AM 10:28d; City Council;

ALICE M. REIMCHE
CITY CLERK
CITY OF LODI

would like to lodge
a formal complaint against
King Video Cable Co. of Lodi, Ca.

My family and I, started
our Cable Service in Jan. of 1984.
Shortly after, we were notified
that Lodi Cable Co. would be
King Video Cable from the state of
Washington. My first question
is why are we supporting a
company two states away?

Immediately after the change
of companys we started having
interference in our reception
(we still have it constantly).
I have called their office,
their crews did come out and
check it out, by the way the
crews were very nice. However
the problem has never been
resolved.

For some reason King Video
Cable believe they deserve a
raise, in which they put on us
last month. I do not mind
paying for it if I get what
I pay for. However I tried
to watch Star Trek III on
Showtime 7-21-85 and I could
not see it because of interference.
I called immediatly (approximetly
8:00 P.M.) and they asked my
name, phone, & address, and said
they would get ahold of a
technician. I still have not
heard from them.

Another thing, King Video
Cable has been billing us every
two months, last month we
received a bill that says we
are delenquent in our payment.
How can we be late on a bill

we never received.

Signed: *Ron Weiss*

Ron Weiss
700 N. Mills
Lodi, Calif.

P.S. If they can't do the job then please find someone who can! By the way how about a refund for all of times I could not watch my T.V & the dissappointments, because of there faultly and old equipment, they should have changed a year ago, before hiking rates. And now time for renewal of contract & promises we probably will not see.

Thank You

As I write this letter 7-22-85
10:30 P.M. Showtime is scrambled.

Ron Weiss
700 N. Mills
Lodi, Calif. 95240



City of Lodi
221 W. Pine St.
Lodi, Calif. 95241

Attn: City Council



1/19/85

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to Lodi's Cable Company -- King Videocable has the worst reception around. The only reason we subscribe to this company is because we need it for our T.V. to receive the basic channels. It is sad to think that this company has such a monopoly on Lodi. They're employees have attitudes worst than snakes, they know you have nowhere else to go, so they're got you. We have friends that pay over \$40.00 a month for HBO, SHO, etc. and half the time it does not come in. (Usually after hours when the office is closed.) We were considering getting the Disney Channel, but why pay that much money a month for something that may or may not come in. When we lived in Modesto and had cable - it came in very clear and the cost was much lower. It is too bad the City of Lodi cannot do anything about this monopoly.

Sincerely,
Lisa Christman
20 N. Lwr. Sacto. Rd.
Lodi, CA 95240

Christman
20 N. Lwr. Sacto. Rd.
Lodi, CA 95240

Member of Commerce-Lodi District
215 W. Oak St.
Lodi, CA 95240

attention: ^{Councilperson} Mr. Pinkerton / ^{Lead}
Other Councilmembers



Lodi, Ca

July 22-1985

Lodi City Council -
Lodi -

We cannot attend the city council meeting Wednesday July 24th. We are among the many Lodi residents who are very troubled and not satisfied with Kingrides and their services in Lodi. - We feel that our good city and the citizens who support it deserve better. - We have recently purchased a good new television set and the lines, color changes, are among the few many problems we have. - It doesn't make T.V. viewing a pleasure and relaxing - instead it is a frustrating time. -

We are considering going back to an antenna or a "satellite dish" - These certainly do not add to the beauty of our city but at least

we would be making out
checks each month for services
we do not receive.

Certainly something could be
done to give our local people
the money they deserve -

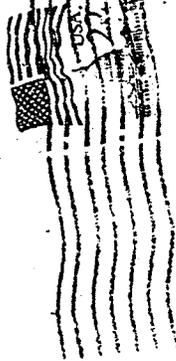
Let's have a change
for the better!

Evelyn and Cecil Mumbert

RECEIVED

1985 JUL 23 AM 9:02

AUDIE M. REIMCHE
CITY CLERK
CITY OF LODI



Lodi City Council
City Hall
W. Pine St -
Lodi, Ca - 95240

RHONDA GEIGLE
910 W. PARK
LODI, CA 95240

JULY 22, 1985

DEAR LODI CITY COUNCIL:

I HAVE ENCLOSED THREE COPIES OF EDITORIALS SENT TO THE LODI NEWS-SENTINEL. I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND YOUR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY JULY 24TH. I WANT MY AND OTHERS FEELINGS REGARDING THIS MATTER OF CABLE REVIEW TO BE HEARD, THEREFORE I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE.

THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE VOTED ON BY THE SUBSCRIBERS OF CABLE TV. MY SUGGESTION IS TO HAVE AN OPEN BALLOT IN THE LODI NEWS-SENTINEL, SINCE MANY PEOPLE ARE NOT AS VOCAL OR DEMONSTRATIVE AS OTHER PEOPLE, OR BETTER YET A BALLOT INCLUDED IN THE MONTHLY CABLE TV BILL, AND THE BALLOT TO BE SENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

ONCE AGAIN, I AM SORRY TO MISS THIS MEETING DUE TO PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS, BUT I THINK THIS LETTER AND THE THREE EDITORIALS WILL SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

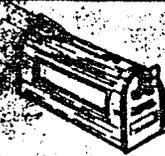
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME,

Rhonda Geigle
RHONDA GEIGLE

RECEIVED

1985 JUL 22 PM 3:48

ALICE M. REIMCHE
CITY CLERK
CITY OF LODI



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Want cable TV choice

Editor:

This letter is regarding the choice of cable TV companies servicing the city of Lodi. King Videocable has had a monopoly in Lodi for years and it is time to seek alternate companies offering comparable services and fees.

Stocktonians have been enjoying the services of Continental Cable for years, they offer the same premium shows, Home Box Office (HBO), Music Television (MTV), Showtime, FM stereo and more. These people also enjoy clear reception and same day service for cable-related problems.

The reception offered by King Videocable has lines and bars, sometimes the picture color fades in and out or has a green cast to it. We have not viewed HBO without lines and bars for months. My husband wants to cancel HBO and rent movies, so we can view a

movie without lines and bars. Presently I have two TV's hooked up to cable with these problems. Another TV is plugged into an electrical wall outlet and has a perfect picture, the only disadvantage to this is I receive only three channels and HBO is not connected. HBO is a premium service, which has an additional fee separate from basic cable.

Watching TV is not the most important objective in my life, but when you pay good money for a service, the service should also be good.

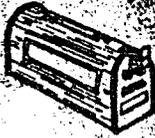
Many people I have spoken to have cancelled their cable services and purchased antennas. They now enjoy good reception on their TV sets, but have a limited choice for TV viewing.

Another issue are the new residential areas being built which restrict antennas and satellite dishes. Granted the areas look nicer without these appliances

projecting out over roof tops, but these residents are limited to one cable company in Lodi. They should have a choice on the cable company servicing them, and should the residents already subscribing to King Videocable.

I suggest the city fathers look into this issue, and I challenge other dissatisfied customers to write or contact a council member. I know there are a lot of you people out there.

Rhonda Geigle



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We pay for King Videocable and the Disney Channel — but trying to watch it has certainly been a challenge!

I'm sure King Videocable would not consider letting any of us have a day or even several hours of cable viewing free — but I have yet to receive a rebate for all the hours and hours we have been unable to enjoy our Disney Channel because of constant interference — snow — no color — scrambled picture — lines — ghosts — you name it — we've had it!

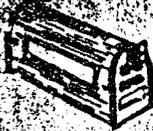
In the July 5 issue of the Lodi News-Sentinel, I noticed that there is a City Council meeting scheduled for July 24 to consider a request from King Videocable for renewal of contract. I would like to encourage anyone who has had a problem trying to view cable television to be at that meeting or send a letter to the City Council voicing your opinion of this request. Remember — citizens of Lodi — if you don't let the City Council know your preference of cable companies, you really don't have the right to criticize them for the choice they make.

Bad cable reception

Editor:

I must add my vote of agreement to the letter of July 3 from Rhonda Geigle.

H. Wiebe



LETTERS THE EDITOR

Unhappy customer

Editor:

A letter you published last week prompted me to write regarding Lodi's cable television service. As a customer of King Videocable (formerly Lodi Cable TV) for two years, I have been dissatisfied with my service most of the time. I like the variety of channels available with cable. But, that's about all I can say in favor of Lodi's cable service.

Throughout the time I have subscribed to cable, there has seldom been a time when the reception was good and all stations were working. Last year, for a four month period, I was unable to watch most of the premium channels, for which I was paying nearly \$40 a month. Each time I re-

quested a service call, the repairman would inform me that he was unable to fix the problem. So, I would call the cable company and advise them that I did not wish to pay for services I was not receiving, and they would inform me that they did not issue credits until the problem was resolved. When I stopped paying my bill, they simply threatened to disconnect my service. Finally, the repairs were made and I was issued a partial credit.

Unfortunately, that was not the end of my problems with cable service. To this day, reception is very poor on most channels, and most of the time one or more subscription channels (Showtime, MTV, USA, etc.) are "scrambled." Two weeks ago, I had a repairman out because several channels were not coming in. He was able to remedy this, but told me quite frankly that he could not promise how long it would last because the equipment is so old and unreliable. Three days later, the picture was "scrambled" again.

I have talked to a number of other people who experience the same difficulties I do. But, most don't bother to report it. Experi-

ence has taught me that the repairs won't last, so I consider it a waste of time to sit around waiting for the serviceman to call. Nevertheless, it appears that King Videocable will not upgrade their equipment as long as complacent customers continue to pay for deficient services. Therefore, I urge cable customers to be persistent in demanding their money's worth.

Tamra M. Honea

July 22, 1985

Lodi City Council
Call Box 3006
Lodi, CA 95241

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter as a formal complaint against Lodi King Videocable. As residents along Bear Creek Road in Lodi we are extremely upset with the service and reception we have received from King Videocable.

It is one thing to have poor reception due to excuses by them, but when you pay for service that you do not receive, then we feel it is time for the City Council to take note. On several occasion we have been without reception, only to call and request service and then have to wait 3 to 4 days before anyone from King Videocable shows up to repair our lines.

For the price we pay for cable we feel the service we are receiving is poor, slow, and by no means acceptable by our standards.

Before the City of Lodi takes action to renew the contract with King Videocable we feel the City Council should review the poor standards of professionalism that have been displayed by King Videocable.

We strongly urge the City Council to review our position concerning this matter and to take appropriate action.

Residents of Lodi:

John & Yvonne Kautz
5490 E. Bear Creek Rd.
Lodi, Calif. 95240

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.....
.....

Marilyn Slattery
4510 E. Bear Creek Rd.
Lodi, Calif. 95240

.....
.....
.....

John & Velma Ferris
5185 E. Bear Creek Rd.
Lodi, Calif. 95240

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.....

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

TO: THE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

DATE
July 24, 1985

NO.

SUBJECT: CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council hold a public hearing concerning the request of King Videocable Company (CATV) to renew its franchise.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The City Council recently received a request from King Videocable Company, the CATV system operating in the City of Lodi, for a renewal of the company's franchise to provide cable television service. The first appropriate step in this process is the holding of a public hearing to seek community input in evaluating the cable company's performance and to identify future community needs for cable services. The City's CATV consultant, CTIC Associates (Mr. Harold Horn) will be in attendance to assist in the conduct of this hearing. Letters have been sent to community organizations, the Lodi Joint Unified School District, and others, advising of the scheduled date and time of the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. Peterson
City Manager

TAP:jj

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF LODI TO SEEK COMMUNITY INPUT IN EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE
OF THE KING VIDEOCABLE COMPANY (CABLE TELEVISION) AND TO
IDENTIFY FUTURE COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 24, 1985 at the hour of 7:30 pm, or
as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Lodi City Council
will conduct a public hearing in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 221
West Pine Street, Lodi, California, to seek community input in
evaluating the performance of the King Videocable Company (cable
television) and to identify future community needs for cable
television service.

Information regarding this item may be obtained in the office of the
City Clerk at 221 West Pine Street, Lodi, California.

All interested persons are invited to present their views on this
matter. Written Statements may be filed with the City Clerk at any
time prior to the hearing scheduled herein and oral statements may be
made at said hearing.

Dated: July 3, 1985

By Order of the Lodi City Council

ALICE M. REIMCHE
CITY CLERK

DECLARATION OF MAILING

On July 9, 1985, in the City

of Lodi, San Joaquin County, California,

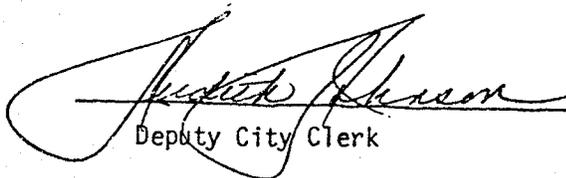
I deposited in the United States Mail,
envelopes with first-class postage prepaid
thereon, containing a copy of the Notice
attached hereto, marked Exhibit "A"; said
envelopes were addressed as is more
particularly shown on Exhibit "B" attached
hereto.

There is a regular daily communication by
mail between the City of Lodi, California,
and the places to which said envelopes were
addressed.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the
foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on July 9, 19 85,

at Lodi, California.


Deputy City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

DAVID M. HINCHMAN, Mayor
FRED M. REID
Mayor Pro Tempore
EVELYN M. OLSON
JAMES W. PINKERTON, Jr.
JOHN R. (Randy) SNIDER

CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET
CALL BOX 3006
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241-1910
(209) 334-5634

THOMAS A. PETERSON
City Manager

ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk

RONALD M. STEIN
City Attorney

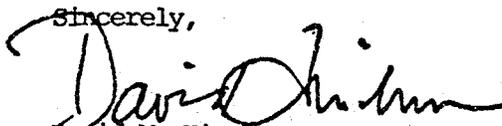
To All Interested Parties:

This is to advise you that the City Council of the City of Lodi will hold a public hearing Wednesday, July 24, 1985 to receive comments concerning cable television service in the city. The hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 221 West Pine Street, Lodi, California.

This hearing is in conjunction with the request of the cable television provider, King Videocable Company, for a renewal of its franchise which expires in 1988. Sufficient lead time is necessary for accomplishing certain cable service upgrades. The purpose of the hearing is to seek community input in evaluating the cable company's performance and to identify future community needs for cable television service. The hearing will provide the City Council with the opportunity to hear comments and gather information regarding cable television service. No commitments regarding service now and in the future will be made at this hearing by either the City of Lodi or King Videocable Company.

Your participation in this process is welcomed.

Sincerely,



David M. Hinchman
Mayor

DMH:jj

Jesus Tzintzun
Director
Concilio
142 South Aurora Street
Stockton, CA

Mr. Terry Knutson
President
Lodi Downtown Business Association
203 South School Street
Lodi, CA 95240

The Honorable President and
Members of the Board
Lodi Unified School District
815 West Lockeford Street
Lodi, CA 95240

Mr. Lowell Flenner
President
Lodi District Chamber of Commerce
215 West Oak Street
Lodi, CA 95240

The Honorable President and
Members of the Board
San Joaquin Delta College
5151 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, CA

The Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Regent
University of the Pacific
3601 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, CA

Mr. Richard Sanford
Administrator
Lodi Memorial Hospital
975 South Fairmont Avenue
Lodi, CA 95240

Mr. Victor Brewer
Administrator
Lodi Community Hospital
800 South Lower Sacramento Road
Lodi, CA 95240

The Honorable Chairperson and
Members of the Board
County of San Joaquin
222 East Weber Avenue, Room 701
Stockton, CA

Mr. Val Heisler
President
50 Plus Club
72 El Camino Real
Lodi, CA 95240

Shirley Klein
Loel Center
105 South Washington Street
Lodi, CA 95240

Mary Helen Barro
General Manager
King Videocable Company
1521 South Stockton Street
Lodi, CA 95240

Rev. Eugene Kreutz
Council of Churches
Redeemer Lutheran Church
113 North School Street
Lodi, CA 95240

Mr. Walter Katnich
Principal
St. Anne's School
215 West Walnut Street
Lodi, CA 95240

Gayle Rhoades
Principal
Lodi Academy
1230 South Central Avenue
Lodi, CA 95240

Marvin Laurente
Principal
St. Peter's School
2400 Oxford Way
Lodi, CA 95240

Frances Welch
President
Friends of the Library
1171 Green Oaks Way
Lodi, CA 95240

President
League of Women Voters
1525 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, CA 95204

RECEIVED

1985 JUN 25 AM 9:04

763 S. Crescent
Lodi, CA 95240
24 June 1985

ALICE M. REINACHE
CITY CLERK
City of Lodi
Mr. Tom Peterson, City Manager,
City of Lodi
City Hall
Lodi, CA 95240

Dear Tom:

Welcome back to Lodi. You may not remember me - Ray Olson. When you were here before, I was the Office Manager at General Mills, Inc. and was the treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce. I believe we met several times in connection with Chamber activities. I retired in 1978.

My purpose in writing to you at this time is to discuss the King Videocable Company. I understand that their contract with the city is coming up for review soon, and I want to advise you of what I consider improper business practices they employ.

I have been a subscriber to cable service from the beginning. Over the years, I have requested changes in service as my needs expanded and contracted, depending mostly on whether the children were at home or away. For the past few years, I have been paying for basic service, plus one additional outlet, and one FM outlet. See photocopy of my recent statement.

I discovered recently that the cable company started scrambling their FM signal last December, thus effectively eliminating FM service to my home. I did not receive any notice of this action and found out about it only when I complained of poor FM reception. I am not interested in the "improved service" which they tell me they now offer (for an additional fee, of course), so I cancelled the FM connection. I requested a refund for the six months since they scrambled the signal and they agreed to credit my account.

When the service man came to disconnect the FM, I really got a surprise. In talking to him, I discovered that I did not have the "additional outlet" I have been paying for. Since the last time I had a change in service was in June of 1982, this means I have been paying for this additional outlet for at least three years, but not getting the service. (See copy of work order attached in which the service man confirmed this situation). I again contacted the Cable company and requested a credit of \$72.00 for the overpayment. Their response was that their policy was to make retroactive payment for overcharges for a maximum of six months, and would only credit my account for an additional \$12.00. They felt I should have told them I wasn't getting the service.

As you probably know, the cable company does not remove the cable connections inside the house when they disconnect. The change is made at the "splitter" on the outside. All these three years, I have had a radio connected to a dead cable outlet. The only thing I use this radio for is to tune in KJAX, FM 99 in Stockton. I have been getting good reception, which I attributed to the cable connection. When the service man told me the connection was dead, I unhooked it, and was surprised to find that the reception was still just as good.

So you see, I thought I was getting the service from the cable company, and so had no reason to ask for a service call.

There are two things I don't understand:

1. How can the cable company get away with discontinuing a portion of a customer's service without making a corresponding reduction in their billing?
2. Once such a situation is called to their attention, should they not be willing to make full restitution of all overcharges? Anything short of that is a rip-off, in my opinion.

I just wanted you to know the kind of business practices in which this firm indulges when their agreement with the city comes up for review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Olson".

Ray Olson

P.S. I will be leaving on June 29 on a three month trip. In the event that you want to discuss problem with me before I leave, you can call me at 368-8071.

King Videocable Company

1521 S. STOCKTON STREET Lodi, CA 95240

LAST PAYMENT DATE	LAST PAYMENT AMOUNT	BILL DATE	DUE DATE	ACCOUNT NO	AMOUNT DUE
1/08/85	27.00-	2/22/85	3/10/85	1006394	27.00

DATE:	DESCRIPTION:	PAYMENT/CREDIT:	CHARGES:
2/22/85	SERVICE FROM 3/01/85 TO 4/30/85		
	1 BASIC SERVICE		19.00
	1 ADDTL OUTLET		4.00
	1 FM SERVICE		4.00
	TOTAL DUE ==>		\$27.00

*check # 1696
3/7/85*

PLEASE PAY THIS AMOUNT BEFORE THE 10TH OF THE MONTH. TO ENSURE PROPER CREDIT, RETURN BOTTOM PORTION OF STATEMENT WITH YOUR REMITTANCE. THANK YOU!

DON'T MISS OUT ON GREAT PROGRAMMING. USE YOUR CABLEGUIDE TO PLAN AHEAD - SEE WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE WHEN YOU WANT TO SEE IT. THIS MONTH SEE FORBIDDEN - AN HBO PREMIERE FILM.

Please keep this portion.

FRANK S. WOOLLETT

TAX CONSULTANT

RECEIVED

1985 JUN 18 PM 4:01

PHONE (209) 368-3388

221 WEST OAK STREET
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95240

312 S. Crescent

ALICE L. REYNOLDS
CITY CLERK
CITY OF LODI

Dear Sirs:

Regarding your local cable TV survey, of the performance of King Video's contract:

① When coming to Lodi 10 years ago, we were informed: "you'll be able to receive S. E. area channel 4 and 7 because we have TV cable service!"

As you must know, 2 years, or so, later on, both above channels were taken away from our viewing.

② As a former member of Lodi's Planning Commission, both my wife and I have been quite interested in the various directions (and decisions made) taken by city administration.

Why not watch the next city council meeting - on the great local TV (sta?)?

(over)

You will see the most inept TV engineering of any meeting which is televised, - i.e. -

a. TV camera does not switch to each indiv. speaker whether at podium, at council member area, or in audience -

b. TV sound is usually too low and/or muffled high volume

c. TV picture usually shows a much "interference" -

We would strongly be against any re-newal of the King Video contract. We would suggest this city ask for a ^(best) competitive company's bid -

Respectfully,
Frank and
Alice Woollett

(Please -
Give us back 5 channel !!)

1011 Pinon Noir Dr., Lodi.

Council eyes Lodi cable TV future

By DIANNE BARTH

News-Sentinel staff writer

The Lodi City Council put a time frame on its negotiations over King Videocable Company's application for renewal of its cable television franchise during a special hearing on the upcoming contract Wednesday night.

King Video has had a contract to provide cable television to the city since 1968. The company's contract will expire in 1988, and plans are already underway for a renewed contract and expanded service.

Wednesday council members asked for a time frame from city staff which will call on a negotiating team and the council to come up with a city "wish list" from King Video, formerly Lodi Cable TV, during the next three to six months.

Once the firm and the city negotiate a new franchise agreement, which is expected to include expanded services and a rebuilt system, King Video will have two years in which to comply with upgrading called for under the renewed contract.

Harold Horn, president of Cable Television Information Center — a Virginia consulting firm hired by the city to review King Video's performance, presented a lengthy report on King Video's Lodi operation and new regulations to the city council.

Vital for the council members' consideration, Horn said, was a new law that prohibits a city from setting cable television rates or demanding certain additional services from the contracted company after the contract is signed.

While average Lodi rates are a little high for the state — \$17.09 per month — there are options offered which offset that rate, Horn said.

However he reported that the current capacity of the Lodi system must be doubled in order to provide added stations many residents are requesting.

"I'm not talking about whistles and bells," Horn said. "They can probably give you what you need with a rebuilt system."

Subscribership in Lodi totalled 8,500 in 1984, and the subscriber base has grown by 11 percent during the past three years, according to the CTIC report.

The system also serves 24 commercial subscribers based in Lodi.

City council members expressed concern over the lack of capacity to expand under the current system, and over some interference on other television channels.

King Video staff promised to investigate interference problems, and suggested that as soon as negotiations are complete, they would

begin implementing requirements made under the new contract.

Horn noted the firm had been cooperative and was capable of providing Lodi with good service.

In other business Wednesday, council members approved a request by Mark Ehlers to move his respiratory care and convalescent equipment center to the Ham Lane Professional Center. Council members found the rental service center provided a service similar to that offered by pharmacies.

Ehlers rents needed medical equipment by medical prescription to patients in need of respirators, wheelchairs, etc.

The council members also agreed to provide the city's building inspector with part-time help. Building inspections have reached a second year record high, and Chief Building Inspector Roger Houston reports two-week waiting lists for residential permits, and three to eight week delays for commercial structures.

Last year the valuation of building permits issued in Lodi topped out at \$38 million. So far this year, the building permit valuation has reached \$35 million.

An on-call building inspector will be hired to move permit paperwork along during the busy summer construction months.

PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

Cable porn

*I agree
these types
of movies
are filthy!*

The new frontier of the multibillion-dollar pornography business is not the newsstands, not prime-time television, not adult bookstores, not even live sex shows. It is cable porn, which is out to capture an audience of millions who would not want to be seen patronizing an obscene show, but who will eagerly lap it up if they can enjoy it in the privacy of their own homes.

The cable revolution is such a new challenge that the Federal Communications Commission and Congress have not yet been able to figure out exactly how to protect the rights of the viewing public and of society. It's beginning to look as though the primary burden for protecting the public interest will fall on the local city councils.

The awarding of a cable franchise may soon become one of the most important decisions a city council will make. Here are some thoughts that a city council should consider before granting a community's franchise agreement.

The city council should have a clear statement of policy about so-called "adult" cable services which feature R-rated movies and pornographic programming during the evening hours on a continuous basis. The city councilmen should gird themselves for battle with those who will argue that the First Amendment was designed to make the world safe for obscenity.

There is no reason why a city council cannot withhold the city's franchise rights from cable companies that carry pornographic films. However, it is not sufficient to prohibit X-rated movies; just as objectionable are the optional pay channels that carry R-rated movies and soft-core pornography exclusively and on a continuous basis.

The city council should develop a statement of policy about the "public access" channels set aside for the exclusive use of individuals and community groups on a free, first-come, first-served basis. City councils should set limits on propriety and decency and fairness so that they uphold the right of the public to hear all sides of controversial issues without having to watch obscenity.

Newsweek magazine told about the abuse of the public-access concept on a late-night New

York City series called "Midnight Blue." It presents topless dancers, sado-masochistic skits, and visits to nudist colonies. Another series is "The Ugly George Hour of Truth, Sex and Violence," featuring a porn actor who persuades women to disrobe before the camera.

Father Morton A. Hill, S.J., president of Morality in Media, is now on a 34-city tour to alert the American public about how rapidly pornography is moving into cable television. He says that Playboy and Penthouse are establishing cable services to sell sex programs to cable operators. The problem is made especially difficult because seven states have no obscenity laws, and the laws in many states pertain only to broadcasting, not to cable transmission.

A more important problem, according to Father Hill, is that federal law enforcement officials refuse to act. U.S. Attorney General William French Smith has refused to meet with him to discuss his refusal to enforce federal laws prohibiting the use of pornographic materials in interstate commerce.

Whether or not the Justice Department acts, the monkey will remain on the backs of the city councils. They are the people who will hear the complaints when citizens are outraged at what is coming into their homes.

And while the city councils are writing restrictions on cable porn into their cable franchises, they should be just as solicitous to protect the viewing public's right to hear contrasting views on controversial issues of major public importance on cable TV. That is the most important principle behind the FCC's Fairness Doctrine, and it should be extended to cable.

City councils should require that candidates for public office have substantially equal opportunities for access to cable TV during an election campaign. If incumbent officials have the opportunity to express their views on the issues of the day, challengers should have the chance, too. The right to respond to personal attacks should also be guaranteed.

The cable ordinance should also include a provision reserving to the city council the right to penalize the cable company for violation of a franchise.

July - 8 - 85.

Dear Councilman John Randy Snider.

I'm going to write in a complaint.

I'm just making out all my bills.

I have the J. V. Cable^{bill} where they have raised the price. In the past week we have had terrible reception. I think they ought to do some thing about it or get another company in. I can't see paying for the day or evening wire we have been receiving. The not only in the past week but its been ever King Video is taken over. I'm one of the senior citizens that is complaining & I can also write to you. We are on fixed income & that's our enjoyment.

Thanking you
Mrs. C. Runge



King Videocable Company

1521 S. Stockton Street
Lodi, CA 95240
209/369-7451
JUL 22 AM 8:31

An Affiliated Company

ALICE M. REIMCHE
CITY CLERK
CITY OF LODI

June 28, 1985

Mr. Tom Peterson, City Manager
City of Lodi
221 W. Pine
Lodi, CA. 95240

Dear Tom:

It was good meeting you and your wife at the Chamber mixer the other evening. I'd like to verify that your records are current as to the King Videocable Company rate increases proposed for 1985.

The attached rate schedule dated August 1, 1985 includes those rate increases effective July 1, 1985 for which you and affected customers have previously received the required thirty-day notification from Deanna Enright.

Additionally, it contains a proposed rate increase of \$.80 for our entertainment customers, as well as our dual, triple and four-pay entertainment accounts. Entertainment-plus-one-pay accounts will be increased a minimal \$.30. The entertainment group account rate increases take effect August 1, 1985. Thirty-day notices have been sent to appropriate customers.

As noted in Deanna's correspondence dated May 15, 1985, the rental for remote control converters has been reduced from \$ 4.95 to \$ 2.00 per month for all accounts, effective July 1, 1985. This more than compensates our customers for the modest increase they received. We are also proud of the increased number of services we now provide, including a fulltime community channel. I trust that the new rates will meet with City approval.

Working with you to serve Lodi residents will be a pleasure. Looking forward to our next meeting, I remain...

Sincerely,

Mary Helen Barro - General Manager

Enclosure

KING VIDEOCABLE COMPANY
RATE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 1985

* indicates new rate

A. INSTALLATION	
installation, first outlet	25.00
additional outlets, each	15.00
relocation of existing outlet	15.00
non-standard installation - unusual construction requirements and or cable drop over 150'	time and materials
B. MONTHLY SERVICE	
basic service, first outlet	10.00
additional outlets, each	2.00
premium stereo sound	4.95
entertainment service (basic+satellite tier)	17.25
entertainment + 1 pay service	25.25
basic + 1 pay service	21.95
entertainment service + 2 pay services	30.75
entertainment service + 3 pay services	40.75
entertainment service + 4 pay services	46.25
C. OTHER FEES AND RENTAL	
processing fee for change of service (upgrade or switch only)	10.00
no charge to downgrade or disconnect	
converter rental	2.00
remote control converter rental	2.00
with purchase of handheld unit for 15.00 * (10.00 refunded if returned in working condition)	
parental control unit with key 16.00 (refunded if returned in working condition)	
D. BULK/COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS	
APARTMENTS *	
4 - 9 units	6.00 /unit
10 - 20 units	5.50 /unit
21 - 30 units	5.00 /unit
31 - 45 units	4.50 /unit
46 and over units	4.00 /unit
MOTELS *	
less than 50 rooms	3.50 /room
50 and more rooms	3.00 /room

RECEIVED

1985 JUL 24 PM 2: 18

ALICE M. REIMCHE
CITY CLERK
CITY OF LODI

Valerie J. Miller
Lodi, CA

July 23, 1985

ATTENTION: This letter is a response to the King Videocable Issue.

Members of Lodi City Council:

Unfortunately, I cannot be present at the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 24. However, I feel that the King Videocable issue is important enough to at least submit this letter expressing my views.

My husband and I did pay for King Videocable for several months but then we terminated their services for several reasons which are enumerated below.

- (1) We did not benefit from the increased channel availability enough to warrant the service's high cost. (\$29.95 monthly)
- (2) Immediately we noticed much worse television reception with the cable service than with our indoor television antenna. Specifically, the signal often became scrambled and the picture resolution was always of lesser quality.
- (3) Certain capabilities of our video cassette recorder seemed to be useless once the cable service was installed. For instance, we could not seem to watch a program on one channel and record a program on another channel at the same time. This is one of the most popular capabilities of a VCR.

(4) The equipment used by this service is bulky and unattractive.

Furthermore, I would like to make reference to the article placed in the July 22 edition of the Lodi News Sentinel. It raises some important questions.

First of all, it seems as a response to the complaints already voiced about King Videocable's services, general manager Mary Helen Barro only offers more service visits. Obviously several customers have specifically stated that repeated service visits have proven to be of little or no help in solving their reception problems. Also, she claims that if granted their early franchise renewal, work will be done on the system and will increase channel capacity... Shouldn't improvement be made on the channels already received before expansion is attempted?! And why must improvement wait until after a premature renewal? Barro apparently also said that the number of complaints her company receives is lower than the national average. To what national average does she refer? Specifically, what are the statistics she is speaking of? Furthermore, Barro expressed that possible sources of reception problems could be due to CB operators, increased power of radio and television stations and intense summer heat. Has Barro consulted electrical/communications engineers on this subject? Being a graduating electrical engineering student myself, I am interested in the reasoning behind these suggested problem sources. They are especially interesting since I had King Videocable services in the foothills where television reception was almost nonexistent without cable TV. At that time, I payed almost the same price for the

service as here and yet I never had reception problems, even with CB radios, heat, etc... Of course, I had different equipment in that area. Perhaps it was up-to-date.

Finally, after expressing my criticisms of Lodi King Videocable, I feel that suggestions should be made for resolving this issue. I do not know the terms of King Videocable's franchise here in Lodi, but surely other cable television companies are not prohibited from offering their services here. If they are prohibited, then doesn't that restriction create a monopoly? And if the laws regarding this subject cannot protect the public from a form of monopoly, then I believe that the original contract should be honored. King Videocable should have to wait until the expiration date of 1988 before renewal of its franchise rights is even considered. They should be given the almost three years remaining in the agreement to improve their services and prove to their customers that they can be worthy of renewal.

Thank-you for your concern and your time spent on this matter. Please feel free to voice my views at the Wednesday night session. I only wish that I could be there myself to confront Mary Helen Barro and King Videocable.

Sincerely,

Valerie J. Miller

Valerie J. Miller