

TV Translator K29AB, Monterey, etc., CA (Facility ID No. 34565)
Request for Special Temporary Authority
June 2010

KTVU Partnership (“KTVU”), licensee of TV translator K29AB, Monterey, California, hereby requests special temporary authority (“STA”) for K29AB to originate programming for approximately eight to ten hours per day for a three-week trial period. For the remaining hours of the day, K29AB will function as it usually does as a TV translator for KICU-TV, San Jose, California. At the conclusion of the three-week trial period, K29AB will resume normal operations as a full-time translator for KICU-TV.

Television translators are not permitted to originate programming.¹ If a translator intends to originate programming on a permanent basis, it must convert to low power television status.² Furthermore, if a low power television station originates programming, it must purchase and install an Emergency Alert System (“EAS”) decoder and monitor the appropriate stations as required by its local state EAS plan.³

KTVU seeks STA for K29AB to originate programming for a three-week trial period while retaining its status as a TV translator. On July 9, 2009, the Commission granted an application for K29AB to flash-cut to digital operations.⁴ KTVU is eager to implement that permit but does not wish to do so if a significant number of viewers continue to rely on the analog signal for K29AB. Estimating the number of viewers watching this analog translator, however, is a challenge. KTVU believes that airing paid programming that prominently features a 1-800 number to purchase a product offers the best means to definitively track how many viewers are watching this translator.

Grant of this STA is in the public interest because it will allow KTVU to determine the best use of K29AB going forward without formally converting the station to low power television status and investing thousands of dollars in EAS equipment. Depending on the results of KTVU’s three-week trial, KTVU may decide to implement its flash cut construction permit promptly or to delay converting the translator to digital so it can continue to serve the remaining analog viewers. Alternatively, KTVU may decide to convert K29AB to low power status permanently so the station can serve as a new programming voice in the Monterey community.⁵

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 74.701(a).

² *Id.* § 74.701(f).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 11.11(b); 11.52(d).

⁴ FCC File No. BDFCDTT-20090604AAD.

⁵ If at the end of the three-week trial, KTVU decides to permanently convert K29AB to low power television station, KTVU will notify the Commission, purchase and install the necessary EAS equipment, and monitor the appropriate stations under the California state plan.