

Gulf-California Broadcast Company
KESQ-TV, Palm Springs, CA
Request for STA for Interim Operations on Pre-Transition Channel

Request for STA for Interim Pre-Transition Channel Operations

The instant request for STA seeks authority for KESQ-TV to operate on its pre-transition channel 42 from the station's interim antenna to facilitate construction of KESQ-TV's repack project to transition from its existing channel 42 to its post-transition channel 28.

KESQ-TV has been assigned to Transition Phase 3, which means that the Phase Completion Date is scheduled for June 21, 2019. As such, the final steps for KESQ-TV's transition-related construction activities will be underway shortly so that the station can meet the construction deadline. This is a multi-user site where other repacked stations will also be constructing post-transition facilities, and KESQ-TV's pre-transition channel operations will also facilitate the completion of those other repack projects.

Grant of this STA for interim operations from KESQ-TV's interim antenna specified herein is in the public interest because it is in furtherance of KESQ-TV's repack transition plan (and the repack transition plans of other stations at the same site). Indeed, the Commission has specifically contemplated precisely this type of temporary, "interim" operation in furtherance of the overall post-Auction transition in order to facilitate continuity of service for viewers and to avoid stations being off-the-air for periods of time during construction activities of repacked stations. *See, e.g., Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Adopt a Post-Incentive Auction Transition Scheduling Plan*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 890 (2018), ¶ 62 ("[I]nterim and auxiliary facilities will be an important part of the transition for broadcasters and we will take action as appropriate to facilitate the use of such facilities and equipment.").

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