

Request for Special Temporary Authority
KSPX-TV – Sacramento, California
Facility ID: 52953

ION Media Sacramento License, Inc. ("ION"), licensee of television station KSPX-TV, Sacramento, California (FCC Facility ID No. 52953), requests special temporary authority ("STA") for KSPX-TV to operate on its pre-auction Channel 48 using a different tower location from its current licensed facility. On March 12, 2018, the Commission granted KSPX-TV's request to be assigned to channel 21 for its post-auction operations and modified KSPX-TV's transition phase assignment to Phase 9 with a Phase Completion Date of 5/1/2020. See Modification of Phase Assignment (FCC LMS File No. 0000030649).

ION's tower lease for KSPX-TV will expire on August 31, 2019, and will not be available for KSPX-TV's pre- or post-repack operations after that expiration date. However, ION secured an alternate tower and has obtained FCC authority to relocate KSPX-TV's transmitter to that tower site. See FCC LMS File No. 0000068563.

ION has previously requested and received Special Temporary Authority to operate on its pre-auction Channel 48 utilizing a temporary side-mount interim antenna at the new tower site (FCC LMS File No. 0000074545). However, ION has experienced delays in permitting and construction for the electrical installation of KSPX-TV's main transmitter. Therefore, KSPX-TV will also need to utilize an interim transmitter, at a lesser effective radiated power than currently authorized. Grant of this STA will render the previously approved authorization moot.

ION will continue its pre-repack operations utilizing the interim antenna and transmitter until the main antenna for KSPX-TV's post-auction operations is installed and made operational during the repack transition period. As demonstrated in the attached engineering exhibits, the requested temporary operation complies with the Commission's rules and will not cause unacceptable interference to any broadcast television station.

Grant of this STA for interim operations is in the public interest because it is in furtherance of KSPX-TV's repack transition plan. 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.¹ Given the exigent circumstances caused by ION's loss of access to its current tower, the STA will allow KSPX-TV to continue its on-air service to viewers while it completes the transition to its post-auction Channel 21 by the Phase 9 deadline. Thus, ION respectfully requests prompt processing and grant of this STA request.

¹ *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.").