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radio markets of this size and otherwise available to a multi-station public radio operation, NPR believes that it is not financially feasible to maintain main studios for noncommercial educational radio stations in those communities. In fact, the scant population in Panaca has precluded any other full service broadcast station or studio operation, and there is just one other full service broadcast station licensed to Tonopah, which is currently off-air. Only with a special grant for rural service from the Corporation from Public Broadcasting is NPR able to operate these stations and provide the off-air noncommercial programming that local residents could not otherwise receive. As a result, use of KNPR's Las Vegas location as the main studio for KLNK and KTPH serves the public interest by allowing NPR to conserve valuable resources and take advantage of economies of scale in the operation of its multiple stations (including the two hubs already located in Las Vegas and authorized satellite/repeater KWPR).⁴ Moreover, as detailed below, the satellite operation does not inhibit NPR's regular efforts and practices to ascertain the needs and concerns of the Panaca and Tonopah communities on a quarterly basis and to respond to those issues through its programming.

NPR believes that the satellite/repeater status for KLNK and KTPH, and operation without main studios in their communities of license, allows it to continue to offer the quality and quantity of program offerings that its local listeners have come to expect. Stations KLNK and KTPH currently provide their listeners with access to NPR news programming, and programs such as *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Weekend Edition*, *This American Life*, *Car Talk* and *Prairie Home Companion*, among many others. In addition, KLNK and KTPH serve area listeners with locally-produced programming such as KNPR's *State of Nevada* (a one-hour daily public affairs program of news, features, interviews, commentary and audience participation), *Along the Way* (Nevada area destinations and travel), *Desert Bloom* (expert gardening advice and exploration of Nevada area landscapes and horticulture), *Food For Thought*, commentaries and opinion on southern Nevada issues, traffic reports and *Las Vegas Business News*. Formalized main studio waivers will have no impact on KLNK and KTPH's continued broadcasts of these programs addressing issues and needs of residents in their local Panaca and Tonopah communities.

Moreover, NPR responds to the concerns of Panaca and Tonopah residents with other news, public affairs and commentary programming such as *Nevada Yesterdays*, a twice monthly examination of state history and folklore written by a local professor and narrated by a former

⁴ In fact, the FCC previously recognized the unique circumstances presented by NPR's Panaca and Tonopah stations when the stations' permits were originally granted, in the above-referenced (and enclosed) grants of waivers permitting unattended operation during periods of re-broadcasting the signal of another station. In those letter grants, the FCC recognized that Panaca's Lincoln County area and Tonopah are spacious and sparsely populated, lack educational and cultural opportunity available in urban centers, and are economically depressed. In light of the communities' widely dispersed, small populations, and NPR's economic and staffing concerns, the FCC granted the waivers to allow for unattended operation of both stations.