

Media Access Project Update

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High Excitement in Low Power FM Radio As First Stations Begin Broadcasting

WASHINGTON, DC. Low Power Radio, community-based radio on the FM dial, is on the air. After years of effort at the FCC by a coalition of public interest groups including the Media Access Project, the Low Power Radio Coalition and others, Low Power FM has launched.

Formats are as varied as the community imagination itself. Churches, social service agency, and interested community groups that have successfully made it through the FCC's application process and are now beginning to use this part of the public airwaves.

Lake County Community Radio in Lakeport California, KPFZ-LP, is one of the first stations to broadcast. On KPFZ-LP, listeners have access to numerous music programs including "Jazz by the Lake," "Denim Alley" (folk), blues as well as Native American programs such as "Lake County Indian Time" (music), and "Voice of the White Plume" (news and talk).

Broadcasting all day Saturday and Sunday, and from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM Monday through Friday, KPFZ-LP Vice President, Linda Guebert says the best is yet to come. "We have a lot of support from the community. Many people have a number of ideas for programming different shows. Our local theater is donating the revenue from their next production in support of our start up. We hope to do more programming soon, maybe even radio plays. I'm also happy to report that we got a grant of over \$22,000 from the Public Telecommunications and Facilities Program of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (US Department of Commerce). The grant will help us purchase studio and transmitting equipment so that we can better serve our community"

"Media Access Project has been working since 1998 to secure LPFM's space on the dial. We had a long uphill battle, and are rewarded, finally, with great alternative, local radio. I am delighted to hear that KPFZ-LP is on the air," said Cheryl Leanza, Media Access Project Deputy Director.

The Media Access Project is a 30 year old non-profit telecommunications law firm which promotes the public's First Amendment right to hear and be heard on the electronic media of today and tomorrow.

