

Cable Television Advisory Board
MEETING AGENDA
R E G U L A R M E E T I N G
May 11, 2016 Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.
Stanley E. Remelmeyer Telecommunications Center Multipurpose Room
3350 Civic Center Drive Torrance, California

Board Information

The Board advises and makes recommendations to the Cable Television Public Access Foundation and City Council in the area of policies and procedures in public access interests, scheduling public access programming, facilities and equipment for the community and public access channels, and disbursement of Foundation funds.

Agenda Review

Complete Board agendas are available for review at the Office of Cable and Community Relations. The agenda cover and minutes are available on the City of Torrance website – www.TorranceCA.Gov

Meetings

All Board meetings are open to the public. Those who wish to speak on any matter on the agenda are asked to provide their name and address for the record.

Direct other questions or concerns to the City Council (310-618-2801), City Manager (310-618-5880), and Cable & Community Relations Manager (310-618-5762). In Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Office of Cable and Community Relations. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35. 102-35. 104 ADA Title II].

A G E N D A

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. FLAG SALUTE**
- 4. MOTION TO ACCEPT AND FILE REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA**
- 5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**
- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 13, 2016**
- 7. SCHEDULED BUSINESS**
 - A. Community Matters – NONE
 - B. Committee Reports
 1. Producer Incentive – April 27, 2016
 2. TCtv Awards and Open House – NONE
 3. Operating Policies and Procedures – NONE
 - C. Report of Community Television Center - April, 2016
 - D. Report of Legislative and Cable Related Activities – April, 2016
 - E. Old Business
 1. Recommendation of the Cable and Community Relations Manager that the Board review and discuss the development of a Facebook page for Torrance Community Television.
 - F. New Business
 1. Recommendation of the Cable and Community Relations Manager that the Board review, discuss, and approve a recommendation from the Producer Incentive Committee to issue a survey of Torrance Community Television Users to better understand how the Board can best serve and increase awareness of TCtv and its programs.
 - G. Addendum Matters
- 8. ADDENDUM MATTERS**
- 9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT TO JUNE 8, 2016 IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER MULTIPURPOSE ROOM AT 7:00 P.M.**

Prepared by:



Michael D. Smith
Cable and Community Relations Manager

Roll Call: De Rago Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

City of Torrance
Office of Cable and Community Relations
3350 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, California 90503

AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) as
CITY OF TORRANCE)

I, _____, in compliance with government Code 54954. 2(a), DO HEREBY AFFIRM that a copy of the **CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA** for the meeting of Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., was conspicuously posted on the City Clerk's bulletin board, 3031 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, California at the time and date indicated below.

POSTED:

Time: _____ Date: _____

By: _____

(Signature)

April 13, 2016

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Torrance Cable Television Advisory Board convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room located in the Stanley E. Remelmeyer Telecommunications Center.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Feliz, Kellogg, Kosidlak. Mauk (arrived 7:02 p.m.), Sanchez (arrived 7:03 p.m.), and Chairwoman Brennan

Also Present: Cindy Hibbard, Secretary
Don Fefie, TCtv Coordinator
Michael D. Smith, Cable & Community Relations Manager

Excused: De Rago

Absent: None

3. FLAG SALUTE:

The salute to the flag of the United States of America was led by Commissioner Kellogg.

4. MOTION TO ACCEPT AND FILE REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA:

MOTION: *Commissioner Feliz moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on posting of the agenda for this meeting. This motion seconded by Commissioner Kosidlak, carried with an aye vote.*

Roll Call Yea: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan
Roll Call Nay: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

MOTION PASSED 6/0

5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS - NONE

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 9, 2016

MOTION: *Commissioner Feliz moved to approve the minutes of March 9, 2016 as amended, motion seconded by Commissioner Mauk.*

Roll Call Yea: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan
Roll Call Nay: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

MOTION PASSED 6/0

7. SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

A) Community Matters – NONE

B) Committee Reports

1) Producer Incentive – NONE

2) TCTV Awards and Open House – NONE

3) Operating Policies and Procedures – March 8, 2016

Report was provided by Committee members based on the minutes. Committee requested that staff return with a written report providing a rationale for 4 and 12 month certification period and its impact on productivity. Brief discussion followed.

MOTION: *Commissioner Kosidlak moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2016 as amended, motion seconded by Commissioner Feliz.*

Roll Call Yea: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan
Roll Call Nay: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan
Roll Call Abstain: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

MOTION PASSED 5/0/1

C) Report of the Community Television Center

March, 2016 – Coordinator Fefie provided an overview of the facility usage: 08 original shows were produced and 05 shows were bicycled. There was 254 hours of post-production used. The HD studio showed a usage of 81 hours. There was 08 hours of HD field camera usage. With the introduction of the Audio and Music Recording Workshop, we now track the of post-production suite usage by video and audio hours. 14.6% of usage was for Video production with 85.4% percent usage for Audio. Monthly Producer Get-Together: “B-Roll and All You Can Do” with guest speaker Mark Jacobs, had 18 in attendance.

Brief discussion followed.

MOTION: *Commissioner Kellogg moved to accept the Torrance Community Television Center Reports for March, 2016. This motion seconded by Commissioner Feliz.*

Roll Call Yea: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan
Roll Call Nay: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

MOTION PASSED 6/0

D) Report of Legislative and Cable Related Activities

Manager Smith summarized the following:

Charter Communications Inc. will pay more than originally anticipated to buy Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks. Charter said in the investor presentation that it would pay \$11.4 billion for Bright House, up \$1 billion, or 9.6 percent, from the \$10.4 billion purchase price announced in May 2015.

Canadian research company Convergence Consulting Group estimated that 1.13 million U.S. TV households cut the cord in 2015, about four times the pace of 2014, with another 1.11 million expected to cancel their pay TV subscriptions in 2016 as over-the-top and mobile services continue to grow.

AT&T first announced the arrival of the service to L.A. in December. In its latest announcement, the company said GigaPower is now available to "tens of thousands of locations" in the Southern California region, including single-family homes, apartments and small business in parts of Eastvale, Irvine, Los Angeles and Orange County. The company said it plans to triple the availability of the 1-gig product by the end of 2016, extending it to Glendale and Arcadia.

As expected, Frontier Communications has wrapped up its \$10.5 billion deal to acquire Verizon's wireline operation in California, Texas and Florida.

The deal, announced last February, will essentially double Frontier's size as it adds about 3.3 million voice connections, 2.1 million broadband connections and 1.2 million FiOS video subs to its pile. About 9,400 Verizon employees are also joining Frontier, which will now number about 28,600.

DirecTV's foray into live 4K teed off with partial coverage of the Masters tournament at Augusta National Golf Club, but details surfaced online show that the satellite TV giant has a bit more in store when it comes to Ultra HD.

Brief discussion followed.

MOTION: *Commissioner Feliz moved to accept the Legislative and Cable Related Report for March, 2016. This motion seconded by Commissioner Kellogg.*

Roll Call Yea: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

Roll Call Nay: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

MOTION PASSED 6/0

E) Old Business

1) **Recommendation of the Cable and Community Relations Manager that the Board review and discuss preliminary report regarding other public access centers.**

Report and analysis was present by staff. The Commission discussed the report and shared additional insights.

Brief discussion followed.

MOTION: *Commissioner Sanchez moved to accept and file the report regarding other public access centers. This motion seconded by Commissioner Feliz.*

Roll Call Yea: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan
Roll Call Nay: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

MOTION PASSED 6/0

F) New Business

- 1) **Recommendation of the Cable and Community Relations Manager that the Board review and discuss the development of a Facebook page for Torrance Community Television.**

Since Commissioner De Rago was not present and because the concept was submitted by him, the Commission decided to continue the matter until the next meeting.

MOTION: *Commissioner Sanchez moved to continue item F1 to the following month. This motion seconded by Commissioner Maul.*

Roll Call Yea: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan
Roll Call Nay: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

MOTION PASSED 6/0

8. ADDENDUM MATTERS - NONE

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

- A) Commissioner Feliz congratulated staff on a fine job concerning Open Mic Night.
- B) Commissioner Kosidlak inquired if anyone can participate in Open Mic Night. Staff responded in the affirmative.
- C) Commissioner Sanchez inquired again about the status of Commissioner De Rago's request to establish a Facebook page for TCtv.
- D) Commissioner Sanchez mentioned that she was impressed by CitiCABLE's timely news coverage of the contractor's attack with a chainsaw near the Southern California Edison storage yard.
- E) Chairwoman Brennan mentioned David Hadley's Open House, April 16th at 23215 Hawthorne Blvd.
- F) Chairwoman Brennan apologized for being out of town and missing Open Mic Night.
- G) Manager Smith invited Commissioner to attend the upcoming SCAN NATOA Spring Conference held June 9th aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach.
- H) Manager Smith also mentioned that CitiCABLE has been selected by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce as the "Community Partner of the Year" and will be honored also on June 9th at the DoubleTree.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairwoman Brennan adjourned the April 13, 2016 meeting at 8:03 p.m., to reconvene on of May 11, 2016 Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call Yea: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan
Roll Call Nay: Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

MOTION PASSED 6/0

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Smith
Cable & Community Relations Manager

Roll Call: De Rago Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

April 27, 2016

MINUTES OF THE CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD PRODUCER INCENTIVE COMMITTEE.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Torrance Cable Television Advisory Board Producer Incentive Committee met on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 8:01 p.m. in the 1st Floor Multipurpose Room located in the Stanley E. Remelmeyer Telecommunications Center.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Kosidlak, Mauk, and Chair Feliz

Also Present: Don Fefie, Coordinator

Cindy Hibbard, Secretary

Absent: NONE

Public: NONE

2. SCHEDULED BUSINESS

A) Develop of a survey to determine TCtv User needs and interests.

Brief discussion followed.

MOTION: *Commissioner Kosidlak moved to recommend to the Commission to issue the attached survey as amended, seconded by Mauk.*

Row Call Yea: Kosidlak Mauk Feliz

Row Call Nay: Kosidlak Mauk Feliz

MOTION PASSED 3/0

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Commissioner Mauk complimented staff on adding the Adobe Premiere Classes to transition existing certified producers onto the new HD post-production equipment at no charge.
- B. Commissioner Feliz expressed appreciation to Commissioner Mauk for doing such a great job following through with the creation of the survey.
- C. Commissioner Feliz shared that he is a nominee for the 33rd Senatorial District to be a delegate for Secretary Hillary Clinton this Sunday.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Feliz adjourned the meeting of April 27, 2016 at 8:39.m.

Row Call Yea: Kosidlak Mauk Feliz

Row Call Nay: Kosidlak Mauk Feliz

MOTION PASSED 3/0

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Don Fefie

TCTv Coordinator

NOTED:



Michael D. Smith

Cable and Community Relations Manager

Roll Call: Kosidlak Mauk Feliz

City of Torrance Cable TV Advisory Board

Producer Survey

The Cable Television Advisory Board is looking for your input and feedback as we review the special events, classes and speakers topics we create for our TCtv Producers. Your suggestions will help us to better understand how we can best serve you and increase awareness for the Torrance Cable TV studio and its programs.

1. What brought you to TCtv? (check all that apply)

- Interest in networking with other entertainment professionals
- Interest in creating television content
- The chance to learn and hone specific skills (directing, editing, lighting, audio, camera-work, writing)
- Suggestion by a friend
- Other: (please elaborate)

2. What topics would you most like to learn about or discuss at an event hosted by the Cable TV Advisory Board (check all that apply)

- Creating content, brainstorming ideas
- How to network, apply to and acquire full-time jobs in the entertainment business
- Specific technical skills and techniques: (example) editing, lighting, sound, camera work, special effects, lower thirds, music usage, scriptwriting, budgeting, locations, casting)
- General networking with local, like-minded professionals and television enthusiasts
- Other: (please elaborate)

3. What is the best day and time frame for you to attend Producer Get-Togethers?

- Weekend days
- Friday evenings
- Day time sessions during the week

4. What is the best way to reach you to tell you about upcoming scheduled events?

- The Torrance Facebook page
- Emails via the TCTV announcements
- Torrance e-newsletter
- Torrance City Calendar
- Torrance Seasons Catalog Schedule
- Mail

5. If CTAB created a 'Special Event Speakers Series' featuring guests from the Entertainment Industry (Writers, Producers, Directors, etc.), would you be interested in attending?

- Definitely
- Most likely

Unlikely

Not interested

6. What is your background/ specialty in television production? Tell us a little bit about how you became interested in TCtv's offerings.

7. What length of shows are have you or will you produce?

5 minutes

30 minutes

60 minutes

120 minutes

Other

8. In your opinion, do you think the Torrance community is aware of the Torrance Cable TV Station and its facilities? Would you like to see awareness increase?

9. We welcome any additional comments!

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Honorable Chairperson and Members
of the Cable Television Advisory Board
3350 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, California

Members of the Board:

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept and file report of the Community Television Activities and Facility Usage Report for April, 2016

Expenditure: \$0.00

RECOMMENDATION

The Cable & Community Relations Manager recommends that the Board accept and file the Community Television Activities and Facility Usage Report for April, 2016.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The report is separated into three groups: Facilities, Programming, and Miscellaneous Activities.

Facility Usage

HD Post-Production Suite Reservations for April 2016 had a usage rate 30%, compared to HD 37% in 2015, compared to SD 29% in 2014.

HD Studio Reservations for April 2016 had a usage rate of 22%, compared to SD 15% in 2015, compared to SD 37% in 2014.

SD Mobile Electronic Field Productions for April 2016 had a usage rate of 16, compared 00 in, 2015 compared to 00 in 2014.

HD Field Equipment Reservations for April 2016 had a usage rate of 08%, compared to HD 13% & SD 19% in 2015, compared to SD 00% in 2014.

Programming

- A total of 12 original TCtv program was completed during April 2016, compared to 08 in 2015, compared to 04 in 2014.
- Torrance residents bicycled a total of 07 programs in April 2016, compared to 13 in 2015, compared to 14 in 2014.

Miscellaneous Activities

April 2016

In the Month of April, 12 original shows were produced and 07 shows were bicycled. There was 221 hours of post-production used. The HD studio showed a usage of 35 hours. There were 40 hours of HD field camera usage. Staff provided multi-camera coverage of two live community events.

With the introduction of the Audio Recording workshop, we now track the post-production suite usage by video and audio hours. 14.6% of usage was for video production with 85.4% percent usage for audio.

03 Users attended HD Field & Post Production Workshop, 02 graduated.

01 Users attended Pre Production Workshop, 01 graduated.

Hosted Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Torrance class. Provided tour and on-camera interview training, 15 guests.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Don Fefie
TCtv Coordinator

NOTED:



Michael D. Smith
Cable and Community Relations Manager

Roll Call: De Rago Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

Honorable Chairperson and Members
of the Cable Television Advisory Board
3350 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, California

Members of the Board:

**SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept and file report of the Legislative and Cable
Related Activities Report – May, 2016**

Expenditure: \$0.00

TWC

TWC offering \$10-a-month skinny bundle with 50 Mbps broadband sign-up

Time Warner Cable ([NYSE: TWC](#)) is offering major broadcast networks, plus premium channels HBO and Showtime, for \$10 a month to new customers when they sign up for the MSO's \$39.99-a-month 50 Mbps broadband tier.

According to a TWC rep, the skinny bundle is a standard cable TV package that's not delivered over IP. But the MSO's use of a skinny bundling strategy to promote a broadband package is notable, given that the operator hasn't been a huge proponent of economy-sized pay-TV packaging.

TWC is currently testing IP delivery of video in the New York market. However, the operator has stressed that the strategy isn't focused on small, economy-sized video packages, meant to entice broadband-only users. Speaking about the trial to investors last fall, TWC CEO Rob Marcus noted that more than 80 percent of his company's video customers opt for traditionally robust cable packages.

"For all the talk about skinny bundles, we're doing pretty well offering a full video product," he said.

The \$10-a-month package is priced well below streaming skinny bundles offered by Dish/Sling TV (\$20 a month) and Comcast's ([NASDAQ: CMCSA](#)) Xfinity Stream (\$15.99), which includes basically the same channels and is also delivered over a managed network.

TWC notes in its promo flyer that its service has no data caps. It also includes TWC TV app access, giving customers TV Everywhere access to their channels on mobile devices.

"You'll have Internet with all the speed you need to stream whatever you want on all your devices," the flyer said.

Operators like TWC are looking for ways to bring millions of young consumers who don't pay for video services into the pay-TV ecosystem. Cablevision ([NYSE: CVC](#)), for example, began bundling services like HBO Now with its Optimum broadband service more than a year ago. FierceCable 04/17/16

The OTT of their own services also erodes pay-per-view/on-demand content offered by traditional cable. This also impacts utility user's tax, franchise and PEG fees. Consumers may benefit from lower start-up pricing.

FCC chairman, Justice Department sign off on Charter's takeover of Time Warner Cable

Charter Communications is closer to realizing its \$68-billion merger with Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks.

Key federal regulators have signaled support for Charter Communications' \$71-billion-plus acquisition of Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks, subject to several conditions aimed at spurring competition among Internet service providers and increasing the number of homes with broadband Internet connections.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler said Monday that he would vote in favor of the deal, which is expected to dramatically reshape the pay-TV and Internet-service market in the U.S. In addition, Charter would become the largest Internet and cable TV provider in Southern California, with more than 2 million customer homes.

The U.S. Justice Department, which separately reviewed the transaction to make sure that it did not violate antitrust laws, also said it would allow the deal to move forward. Justice Department officials proposed a settlement with Charter that would restrict the Stamford, Conn., cable company from trying to thwart the ability of online video distributors, such as Hulu or Netflix, to obtain video content from TV programmers.

Historically, Charter's core business has been providing bundles of TV channels. That model faces pressure from online streaming services that are attracting millions of customers with their low-cost subscriptions. But providing Internet service has increasingly become a more lucrative line for Charter and other cable companies.

Federal regulators tailored several of the conditions to address Charter's rising Internet clout — requiring Charter to expand broadband service in areas with spotty service, for instance, and to sign up poor families who cannot afford Internet service. Charter would be required to provide low-cost Internet service to at least 525,000 low-income homes.

Charter also would have to provide 1 million new Internet connections in areas where other high-speed operators deliver service in an effort to encourage more competition.

Some critics said the deal, which accelerates the consolidation of media, still has problems.

“There's nothing about this massive merger that serves the public interest,” Craig Aaron, president of the nonprofit group Free Press, said in a statement. “There's nothing about it that helps make the market for cable-TV and Internet services more affordable and competitive for Americans.”

Four other FCC commissioners now must sign off. Their approval could come as early as this week.

The FCC, in conjunction with the Justice Department, tailored several conditions to focus on eliminating barriers to video streaming. For example, Charter would not be permitted to charge usage-based prices or impose data caps on its customers.

The FCC also would prohibit Charter from charging interconnection fees, including to online video providers such as Netflix, which deliver large volumes of Internet traffic to broadband customers.

Wheeler said the conditions would last seven years, although Charter could apply to have them relaxed after five years.

The Justice Department's proposed settlement did not address the lack of distribution for the Los Angeles Dodgers' channel, SportsNet LA, or whether the government would require Charter to increase the availability of the channel in Southern California.

The union of Charter, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks would create the second-largest cable TV company and Internet service provider, and the third-largest pay TV provider, in the nation, with more than 23 million customers in 41 states. Only Comcast Corp. will have more cable customers.

"The conditions that will be imposed ensure Charter's current consumer-friendly and pro-broadband businesses practices will be maintained by new Charter," Charter said in a statement.

Charter has structured a cash-and-stock deal, currently valued at about \$60 billion, to buy Time Warner Cable. Acquiring the privately held Bright House will cost an additional \$11 billion.

When the deal is completed, Charter will have roughly \$60 billion in debt on its books, including about \$21 billion in existing Time Warner Cable debt.

In addition to Los Angeles and San Diego, the company will become the leading cable provider in New York; Dallas; Tampa, Fla.; Indianapolis; Detroit; and Bakersfield.

George Slover, senior policy counsel for the nonprofit Consumers Union, which publishes Consumer Reports magazine, said that while the proposed conditions were promising, he still worries about how Charter will use its clout.

"Since Day One, we've been very skeptical of this deal and the power it could give one company to become a cable and broadband giant," Slover said. "History has shown us how powerful companies look for every angle to avoid or weaken the conditions imposed on their mergers, so the government is going to have to back up these tough conditions with tough enforcement."

Aaron, of Free Press, noted that Time Warner Cable Chief Executive Rob Marcus, who has been in the job a little more than two years, "will walk away with a \$100-million golden parachute" according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

Charter still must secure the approval of the California Public Utilities Commission. That vote — scheduled for May 12 — will mark the final stop in Charter's long journey to secure approvals from various state regulators for the merger that it unveiled 11 months ago.

This month, a judge in San Francisco reviewing the matter for the PUC recommended approval of the deal. However, he attached several conditions designed to expand the number of families who receive high-speed Internet service in their homes.

Pay-TV operators are bulking up to better withstand shifting consumer behavior.

Last summer, AT&T acquired DirecTV, based in El Segundo, in a \$49-billion merger that catapulted the phone giant into becoming the nation's largest pay-TV provider, with 26 million customers.

Frontier Communications completed its \$10.5-billion purchase of Verizon's wire line, broadband Internet and FiOS TV businesses in California, Texas and Florida and took over Verizon's operations on April 1. That has led to many consumer complaints about dropped service and other problems.

The Charter-Time Warner Cable-Bright House deal was announced about four weeks after Comcast Corp.'s ambitious bid for Time Warner Cable collapsed under government scrutiny. Federal regulators signaled that they would block the Comcast-Time Warner Cable combination because they did not want one company to control so many broadband Internet connections.

Charter will dramatically expand its geographic service area and has said it will achieve \$800 million in synergies annually from the deal. Los Angeles is viewed as an important market, which Charter will look to dominate by consolidating its operations with the much larger Time Warner Cable. LA Times 04/25/16

The FCC has not officially voted yet in the acquisition by Charter Time Warner Communications.
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OVER-THE-TOP

YouTube Said to Plan 'Unplugged' Online TV Service for 2017

YouTube is working on a paid subscription service called Unplugged that would offer customers a bundle of cable TV channels streamed over the Internet, people familiar with the plan said.

The project, for which YouTube has already overhauled its technical architecture, is one of the online video giant's biggest priorities and is slated to debut as soon as 2017, one of the people said. YouTube executives have discussed these plans with most major media companies, including Comcast Corp.'s NBCUniversal, Viacom Inc., Twenty-First Century Fox Inc. and CBS Corp., but have yet to secure any rights, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the talks are private.

YouTube, a unit of Alphabet Inc.'s main Google Internet business, is pursuing subscriptions for premium video to complement the largest ad-supported video site in the world. YouTube introduced its first paid subscription service, Red, last fall. Unplugged would bring more premium content onto YouTube's web service and mobile apps, grabbing more viewing time and generating more non-advertising revenue.

YouTube has been working on an online cable package since at least 2012, one of the people said, but these plans have taken on new urgency in the past few months. Christian Oestlien and Jonathan Zepp are among top YouTube executives working on Unplugged, the people added. Apple Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. are working on similar proposals, while [Dish Network Corp.](#) and Sony Corp. have already introduced online TV services.

YouTube's interest in a live TV package has been [reported](#) in the past, but this the first time the name and details of the plan have emerged. YouTube declined to comment.

“We aim to provide more choice to YouTube fans -- more ways for them to engage with creators and each other, and more ways for them to get great content,” Sundar Pichai, Google’s chief executive officer, wrote in an letter to Alphabet shareholders last week. “We’ve started down this journey with specialized apps like YouTube Kids, as well as through our YouTube Red subscription service.”

Skinny Bundle

YouTube has discussed different ways of packaging TV channels, the people said. In one scenario, it would build a bundle of channels with the four U.S. broadcast networks and a smattering of popular cable channels, a concept known in the industry as a skinny bundle. This is similar to a [proposal](#) Apple has discussed with media companies for some time.

Like Apple, YouTube has struggled to secure all the channels it wants at a desirable price. YouTube wants to sell a package for less than \$35 a month, the people said, but large media companies expect new providers to pay more per channel than existing partners Comcast and AT&T Inc.

“CBS is essential to any skinny bundle,” CBS Chief Executive Officer Leslie Moonves said at the company’s investor day in March, adding that the company would net “more dollars per subscriber than the current larger bundle.”

Less-Watched

YouTube has also discussed offering a collection of less-watched TV channels and creating smaller groups of channels around themes. A YouTube Unplugged comedy bundle might include three or four TV channels such as Comedy Central, while a lifestyle bundle might include the Style Network.

YouTube would charge one subscription for the main bundle, and extra, smaller monthly fees for these theme-based groups, one of the people said.

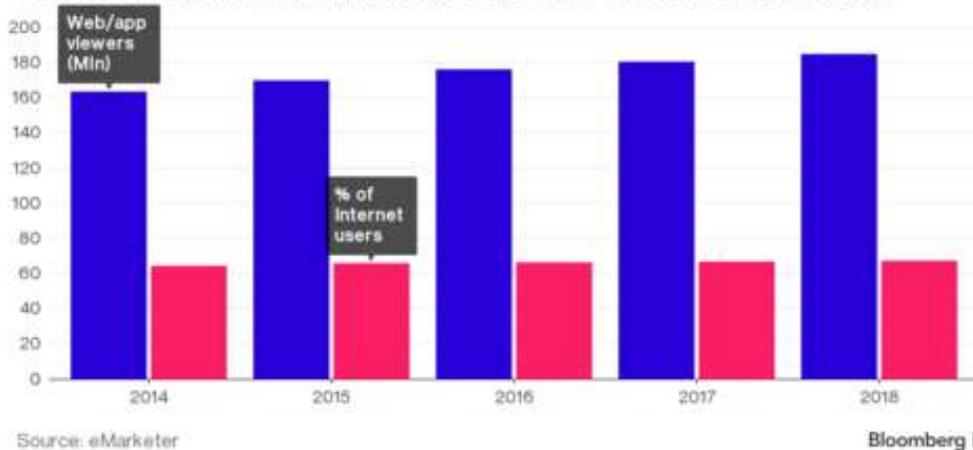
Using this approach, YouTube could show it is capable of bringing new viewers to many of these second-tier channels, a major concern for large media companies that depend on TV for most of their profits. If YouTube can make it work, media companies may be more open to including more-successful channels later, one of the people familiar said.

With the number of subscribers in decline for cable channels such as Walt Disney Co.’s ESPN, Time Warner Inc.’s TNT and Viacom’s MTV, media companies are hoping skinny bundles can bring back customers, especially young ones.

“There is a strong consumer demand for the skinny bundle of 15 channels to 30 channels,” Moonves said. “Many viewers would rather pay for only those channels they actually watch.”

Google's Online Video Giant

YouTube will have 185 million unique viewers by 2018, 67 percent of all Internet users



While Apple, Amazon and Google have frustrated media companies over the years with on-and-off content negotiations, they are more popular among young consumers than any cable company. These technology giants also have a large reservoir of customers buying their devices, and each sells a set-top box to stream video from apps like Netflix Inc. and Hulu.

With tech companies placing more emphasis on TV, and media companies looking for new distribution, executives are more optimistic about concluding negotiations, the people said. While executives at Disney had previously been wary of skinny bundles, demanding caps on the number of subscribers any such service could have, Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger has since said it is important for its ESPN sports channel to be in these packages no matter the number of customers.

Still, media companies resist any plan that doesn't include their top channels. Dish took Fox's four non-news networks in a recent deal for its Sling TV product, which also includes channels from Scripps Networks Interactive and Turner Broadcasting System Inc.

Analysts question whether Dish can continue to sell Sling for \$20 a month without deals for the most-watched TV networks CBS and NBC. Dish secured the rights for the online TV service over many years, and still has yet to get everything it wants.

Consumers may feel the same way. As tech giants explore ways to bring traditional, live TV to the web, viewers are flocking to on-demand services like Netflix, Hulu and Amazon. Hulu, owned by Fox, Disney and Comcast, also plans to expand its offering and sell an [online TV service](#) with live channels.

"I don't know how much demand there will be for these packages," said Barton Crockett, an analyst at FBR Capital Markets. "The Internet is setting the ground work for the possibility of consumer adoption of skinny bundles at a level we haven't seen before, but for now the numbers are pretty small."
Bloomberg 05/04/16

The direct competition of OTT services erodes pay-per-view/on-demand content offered by traditional cable. This also impacts utility user's tax, franchise and PEG fees. Since YT already has a large viewing audience, this entry may pose the biggest threat to tradition cable.

AT&T

Will AT&T follow Verizon in selling its California landline network?

AT&T has been busy in Sacramento trying to pass legislation that would make it easier to get rid of its copper landlines by 2020. (Matt Rourke / Associated Press)

Frontier Communications' bumpy takeover of Verizon's landlines in California raises a question about the fate of the state's other big controller of copper wires. Is AT&T also looking to unload its landline network?

The answer is a resounding maybe.

At issue are the copper phone lines that for decades have connected people's homes to AT&T's network. They're good for basic phone service and relatively slow DSL Internet access, as opposed to fiber-optic lines that carry super fast services such as AT&T's U-verse TV system.

I've spoken with a number of telecom industry players and analysts, and the general consensus is that AT&T sees no future in copper landlines — but the company isn't in as big a hurry as Verizon to go digital-only.

Frontier admits California outages are worse than previously thought "I don't think it's in AT&T's interest to maintain all those copper wires," said Paul Glenchur, senior telecom analyst at Potomac Research Group in Washington, D.C. "Gradually, they'll want to replace them."

AT&T's chief executive, Randall Stephenson, repeatedly has indicated that the company aims to abandon outdated technology by the end of the decade.

In a 2013 letter to shareholders, he said that AT&T is "putting software rather than hardware at the heart of our network infrastructure," and that "we've committed to upgrading all of our customers to new technology by 2020."

In recent days, I spoke with several AT&T technicians, each of whom asked to remain anonymous to avoid reprisals. They said supervisors statewide are alerting workers that the company's traditional copper-wire network and central switching offices will start being phased out beginning in 2018.

They're also saying that one scenario being discussed among AT&T insiders is for Frontier to acquire AT&T's California landline phone network, just as it did April 1 with Verizon's system.

AT&T and Frontier aren't strangers. In 2014, Frontier spent \$2 billion purchasing AT&T's landlines in Connecticut. Frontier subsequently issued \$10 million in credits to customers to atone for a less-than-seamless transition.

I spoke with Ken McNeely, president of AT&T California. He said it's "unlikely" that the company will sell its landline network in the state.

"We are not looking to do that," he said.

I conveyed what I'd been hearing from the company's technicians — that supervisors are notifying staff about old technology being put out to pasture.

McNeely didn't deny such meetings are taking place. "We'd be negligent if we weren't already training our technicians in new technology," he said.

So, on the one hand, AT&T says it's aiming to have all customers using "new technology" by 2020 and admits it's preparing staffers for a digital future. On the other, it says there are no plans to jettison the old-school copper wires now running into many people's homes.

If I had to guess, I'd say the company is trying to have it both ways to avoid talking down the value of its landline network prior to a possible sale.

For what it's worth, I also spoke with Melinda White, Frontier's regional president. She said she wasn't aware of any talks with AT&T about acquiring the company's California landlines.

Yet AT&T has been busy in Sacramento trying to pass legislation that would — yup — make it easier to get rid of its copper landlines by 2020.

Assemblyman Evan Low (D-Campbell) introduced a bill this month that would allow phone companies to kill off copper and switch all phone service to wireless and high-speed Internet systems.

He said this legislation, AB 2395 is needed "because right now we have a 21st-century economy operating on a 20th-century IT network." AT&T is a key backer of the bill.

However, critics say the true intent of the legislation is to allow AT&T to stop investing in rural areas where copper landline networks are expensive to maintain.

"Rather than modernizing phone service, this bill would take us back to the dark days when consumers were totally at the mercy of AT&T," said Mark Toney, executive director of the advocacy group Turn.

"It would eliminate the most basic consumer protections, regardless of the enormous impact abandoning copper could have on emergency services and vital communications."

Rural County Representatives of California, another advocacy group, said the legislation would "allow a mechanism for legacy carriers to relinquish their decades-old obligations that guarantee basic two-way telephone service via a landline."

AT&T's McNeely said the bill is aimed mainly at educating California consumers about their telecom choices. He said 85% of AT&T's customers already receive phone service via broadband Internet connections or mobile devices, so the important thing is to allocate resources appropriately.

"With each passing year, the copper network becomes less and less efficient," McNeely said. "If no one's using it, let us turn it off."

Or sell it, presumably.

Which brings us back to where we started: Will AT&T follow Verizon in selling its landlines to Frontier?

Could be. Or not.

All we know at this point is that AT&T is definitely gearing up for changes, and those changes definitely involve its landlines.

Oh, and we also know that when Frontier says it expects the transition from one provider to another to go seamlessly, a lot of people are probably going to experience seams. As of Monday, I was still getting dozens of emails daily from former Verizon customers griping about service disruptions. A Times 4/26/16

The email address once again to reach White, Frontier's regional president, is LetMelindaKnow@FTR.com.

David Lazarus' column runs Tuesdays and Fridays. He also can be seen daily on KTLA-TV Channel 5 and followed on Twitter @Davidlaz. Send your tips or feedback to david.lazarus@latimes.com.

FRONTIER

Frontier Fields Customer Complaints After Switch-Over From Verizon

Company acquired millions of phone, TV and Internet accounts in three states this month Frontier Communications Corp. is facing a flurry of customer complaints after acquiring millions of phone, television and Internet accounts in three states from Verizon Communications Inc. this month.

The Texas Public Utility Commission fielded more than 150 complaints about Frontier's service this month, more than half of them in the past week, spokesman Terry Hadley said. The California Public Utilities Commission has recorded 235 Frontier complaints during the first half of April.

Eric Sowell, 40 years old, of Garland, Texas, said Friday he still can't surf the Web from his home. His service failed two weeks ago, he said, and is still down despite a visit from a technician last week.

Mr. Sowell, a software development teacher, has been spending more time at Starbucks and Buffalo Wild Wings to use Wi-Fi, he said, and plans to switch his broadband service to Time Warner Cable Inc. "It is really inconvenient beyond just, 'I can't watch my Netflix,'" he said. "I need the Internet for my job."

Frontier spokesman Peter DePasquale said subscribers who lost service after the switch-over represented less than 1% of its customer base, which now includes 7.5 million voice lines and 4.5 million broadband connections.

Most issues were fixed within hours, Frontier said, though some persisted as the company worked to properly handle the flood of new service workers who came over from Verizon.

Frontier executive Carl Erhart said during a Texas commission hearing last week that many complaints stemmed from unrelated problems that happened to spring up around the same time as the Verizon switch-over, including an issue with a crucial piece of network equipment that knocked out digital services to some customers. The Wall Street Journal 4/25/16

Consumers can contact Frontier concerning service. Go to <http://meetfrontier.com/> There are welcome as well as how to videos available.

BROADBAND

Google Gets Beaten to the Punch by AT&T on Super-Fast Broadband

Google Fiber has yet to bring its super-fast broadband service to the city of Atlanta. But Comcast Corp. and AT&T Inc. know it's coming, and they're offering the 1 gigabit Internet speed Google promised -- and signing up new customers.

It's been six years since Google announced it would lay a fiber network to compete with cable providers and telephone companies. Although it's now in only four markets, competitors are lowering rates and building faster lines to keep customers from defecting to the technology giant. Because Google needs consumers to have robust Internet speed in order to sell more expensive ads on its search engine, that may be what it had in mind all along.

"There's a lot more bark than bite" behind Google's strategy, said Roger Entner, an analyst with Recon Analytics LLC.

When Google first announced its plans, 1 gigabit speed was a novelty. With the faster speed, users can stream -- without buffering -- at least five high-definition videos simultaneously while also having enough bandwidth to e-mail and surf the Web. They can also download an entire movie in under two minutes.

Movement Grows

Earlier this year, Comcast began testing cable-based gigabit technology in Atlanta, and plans to roll it out to Nashville, Tennessee; Chicago; Detroit; and Miami later this year. It's already selling a fiber-based, 2-gigabits-per-second service nationwide. The U.S. gigabit leader, AT&T, is expanding to 36 more cities. FairPoint Communications Inc. and Windstream Holdings Inc. are also adding markets.

"The gigabit movement has become stronger," said Kamalini Ganguly, an analyst at researcher Ovum. "Google is feeling a little bit of competitive heat as a result."

While Google has only entered four cities serving fewer than 100,000 customers combined, according to Entner, AT&T now offers its GigaPower service in 20 metro areas. Including AT&T, the nation's other carriers now have as many as 1 million gigabit users, he said.

"Any time Google is doing three, AT&T is doing 30 cities," Entner said.

Lower Rates

In the first quarter, Google parent Alphabet Inc. poured almost \$280 million into capital expenditures primarily related to the fiber venture, which has resulted in lower prices for customers in its target areas. Markets that Google enters enjoy a \$20-a-month drop in prices on average, Entner said.

Consumers often stick with the incumbents, even if they get speeds slower than 1 gigabit. Many customers in Provo, Utah, where Google Fiber was rolled out in 2014, have managed to wrangle

lower rates by calling their existing providers and threatening to switch, said Wayne Parker, chief administrative officer for the city.

Google's 1 gigabit access costs \$70 a month, while Comcast offers lower-speed Internet access packaged with more than 80 TV channels for as little as \$80.

"We've heard from a lot of people, 'I am not going to go to Google because I don't need to get 1 gig, but I got a screaming deal from Comcast,'" said Parker.

Bundling Package

At the end of March, Google introduced a phone service that can be bundled with broadband and TV, similar to what cable and telecom companies offer. It's also trying out various business models -- such as using a local utility's fiber instead of building its own -- and experimenting with wireless technology to speed up the rollout, said Jill Szuchmacher, who is directing expansion of the Fiber project for Mountain View, California-based Google.

"Our long-term goal is to create abundance in terms of connectivity and speed where there's a scarcity," she said. "In the cities where we are offering service, we have seen an increase in competitive offerings."

She declined to comment on whether Alphabet would consider buying an existing telecom or cable company to speed up the Fiber rollout. While the company doesn't release subscriber numbers, Google Fiber is expanding into seven more cities, although it declined to provide a timeline.

So far, analysts say Google isn't making a dent in the incumbents' results.

"Nowhere in this discussion of cable subscribers has Google even been relevant," said Paul Sweeney, director of North American research at Bloomberg Intelligence.

Internet provider CenturyLink Inc.'s chief marketing officer, Bill Hurley, said in a statement that Google Fiber "had no impact" on the company's decision to offer 1 gigabit service in portions of 19 states. The competition would help bring high-speed Internet access to underserved areas, he said. Google and other companies have been criticized for focusing on wealthy neighborhoods.

"We're pleased to see Google and other providers join us in helping to bridge the digital divide in America," he said.

Lower Costs

The incumbents are benefiting from Google's entry as cities relax their requirements for buildouts, and strive to reduce permitting and other costs.

"Growing customer demand, advancing technologies and pro-investment municipal policies that lower construction costs have accelerated our recent network deployments," AT&T said last week in a statement.

In Austin, Texas, for instance, Google has been allowed to experiment with micro-trenching -- digging shallower pits for the fiber than are typically used.

"The activation is much faster and less expensive," said Rondella Hawkins, officer of telecommunications and regulatory affairs for the Texas capital.

Meanwhile, Atlanta is talking with Google and other providers about splitting the costs of opening up roads in places with existing municipal fiber, which the city wants to upgrade, said Kristin Wilson, Atlanta's deputy chief operating officer.

With three major providers fighting it out, "we are thrilled," she said. "We want options and competition for our citizens." Bloomberg April 25, 2016

Broadband competition is great news for the consumer. Spurs improvement in facilities and service, but not always pricing. Although we submitted an application for Google Fiber to come to Torrance, we were not selected.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Smith
Cable & Community Relations Manager

Roll Call: De Rago Feliz Kellogg Kosidlak Mauk Sanchez Brennan

Honorable Chairperson and Members
of the Cable Television Advisory Board
3350 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, California

Members of the Board:

SUBJECT: Facebook Page for TCtv

Expenditure: \$0.00

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Cable and Community Relations Manager that the Board discuss the development of a Facebook page for Torrance Community Television ("TCtv").

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Under Oral Communications at the January 13, 2016 Board meeting, Commissioner De Rago suggested TCtv have its own Facebook Page.

Facebook Pages are a method of two-way communication between online users. Typical pages are developed based on special interests to draw attention to their subject matter, promote activity and events, and receive feedback.

Social Media is generally a 24-hour/7-day-a-week platform where the community engages the subject matter presenter. To manage social media, hourly employees are only available to engage with site visitors during normal work hours. All engagement after-hours is left salaried employees.

Torrance Community Television ("TCtv") as the public access channel is a free-speech forum. TCtv has a webpage for one-way communication, www.TorranceCA.Gov/CableTV/3218.htm. The page is a resource for information concerning workshops, facilities, activities and events. A social media page would provide similar content. A page would also allow interested parties that have Facebook profiles to confirm attendance at events that are posted, share content within Facebook to individuals and groups of similar interests, and make comments on postings.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Smith
Cable & Community Relations Manager

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Honorable Chairperson and Members
of the Cable Television Advisory Board
3350 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, California

Members of the Board:

SUBJECT: Producer Survey

Expenditure: \$0.00

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Cable and Community Relations Manager that the Board review, discuss, and approve a recommendation from the Producer Incentive Committee to issue a survey of Torrance Community Television Users to better understand how the Board can best serve and increase awareness of TCtv and its programs.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Under Oral Communications at the February 10, 2016 Board meeting, Commissioner Mauk suggested the Commission conduct a survey of TCtv Producers.

On March 9th, Commissioner Mauk submitted draft questions under Oral Communications. The survey was assigned to the Producer Incentive Committee. On April 27, 2016, the Producer Incentive Committee met to discuss the draft. The minutes and amended draft questions are contained in item 7B3.

The purpose of the survey seeks Producer input and feedback to the Board as you review special events, classes, and speakers topics for the Monthly Producer Get-Togethers. The Committee seeks suggestions that will help to better understand how the Board can best serve Producers and increase awareness of TCtv facilities and programs.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Smith
Cable & Community Relations Manager

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