

The Sentinel

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Cable Television

Supervisors Want Answers Before Allowing Takeover

County supervisors want some answers from Teleprompter Cable TV before they will consider allowing Group W Cable Inc. to take over the local cable television operator.

Group W Cable, a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric Corp., acquired control of Teleprompter in August. The change of ownership, however, requires approval of the county and city of Santa Cruz which jointly regulate the local cable television operation.

The City Council recently approved the change, but Teleprompter won't officially become Group W Cable until supervisors approve the change.

Supervisors Tuesday directed the Acting County Administrative Officer George Newell to seek a more thorough explanation of Group W Cable's reinvestment policies.

They also want Group W Cable TV to agree to change the dates the city and county cable television franchises expire so that both franchises will end at the same time.

The City Council also conditioned its

approval on the franchise dates being coordinated.

Presently, the city's franchise with the local cable television operator expires in 1986, and the county's franchise expires in 1984.

The city and county are requesting that Group W Cable agree to change both franchise expiration dates to Aug. 30, 1985.

Newell and Santa Cruz City Manager Richard Wilson wrote a joint letter to Teleprompter in March asking numerous questions about the takeover, including a question on Group W Cable's reinvestment policy.

The question posed was: "What is the management philosophy of Group W Cable with respect to government and public relations, reinvestment of the profits derived from local services and how does this philosophy differ from Teleprompter's?"

Aaron Fleischman, attorney for both Teleprompter and Group W Cable, responded to the numerous questions in early April, but supervisors weren't satisfied with some of the answers.