

Cable Co-op to get help from Boston firm

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SANTA CRUZ — The Cable Co-op of Greater Santa Cruz has announced it has enlisted a Massachusetts firm to help it with a proposal for a cable TV franchise.

The Co-op is an announced contender in the race for a city and county cable TV franchise.

According to Steve Turner of the co-op,

an understanding of memorandum was signed with Nashoba Communications Co. of Boston, Mass., this week.

If the co-op wins the franchise, Nashoba will supervise the replacement of the existing 11-channel cable system and will manage the commercial component of the co-op's new system, announced co-op

President Edward Newman, a local attorney on the co-op's board of directors.

The co-op contends it will build a 60-channel system, if it wins the franchise. Several of Nashoba's staff will work with Turner and Carol Glover in preparing the bid proposal.

Turner said the negotiations with Nash-

oba began in September, "right around the time we incorporated."

Turner also said in response to a question that Tom Karwin is not involved in the co-op's bid process.

Both Group W Cable TV Inc., which is fighting to retain the franchise, and the Associates for Good Government, a conservative Aptos group, have raised charges of Karwin's conflict of interest. They maintain Karwin's past relationship with the county as a paid consultant placed him in a conflict position.

The county counsel also issued an opinion that Karwin would be placed in a potential conflict of interest if retained by the co-op.

Newman said in a press statement that Nashoba worked with Cable Plus, a cable TV co-op in Cambridge, Mass., in developing that organization's bid for a franchise.

Nashoba is franchised to operate cable TV systems in six Massachusetts cities and towns, and has franchise applications pending in six others, according to Newman. Nashoba's construction subsidiary has built the systems that the corporation operates.

The Santa Cruz cable co-op had previously stated its desire to hook up with a larger company to help develop the new cable system.

In a related issue, Turner said the co-op has raised \$19,580 of the \$43,000 it wants to collect for financing part of the writing of the proposal.

The deadline for proposals to be submitted is Dec. 31.