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Sentinel

# Teleprompter Takeover Needs Local Approval

An "administrative" takeover by Teleprompter Cable TV's new owners, Westinghouse Broadcasting Co. Inc., will need the approval of local officials and the company has petitioned the county Board of Supervisors and the Santa Cruz City Council this week.

In a letter to both governments, Teleprompter Attorney Aaron I. Fleischman states the "internal corporate reorganization is purely ministerial administrative" and will have no effect on the quality of service, costs or charges.

He states, however, that in the long run the power of the larger corporation Westinghouse could well bring improvements.

It is necessary for the company to get approval for the reorganization as by law all cable companies need local contracts in order to go on the air.

Westinghouse Broadcasting is a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric Corp. and acquired control of Teleprompter on August 18, 1981.

Its cable management company is called Group W Cable Inc.

According to Fleischman, "Teleprompter has been a leader in broadband telecommunications and has followed a philosophy of reinvestment to upgrade facilities or the provision of new and innovative programming and services.

"For example, Teleprompter operates the largest privately-funded network of satellite receiver stations, with 130 currently in use. With the additional financial strength of Westinghouse, Group W hopes to continue and expand upon this policy."

The management, personnel and control of Teleprompter will not be altered by its reorganization into Group W. Cable TV, but any new facilities would be financed through the funding strength of the larger corporation.

The item is scheduled to go before county supervisors Tuesday morning.