

Resolution unanimously approved by the Santa Cruz city council, September 3, 2003:

WHEREAS, Free Radio Santa Cruz 96.3 FM has provided an invaluable public service to the City of Santa Cruz for the past eight years; and

WHEREAS, Free Radio Santa Cruz 96.3 FM has provided a forum for those whose voices are often excluded from the increasingly consolidated corporate media; and

WHEREAS, Free Radio Santa Cruz 96.3 FM has remained committed to fostering an informed and engaged public by providing a wide diversity of programming and access to a diverse group of local residents, artists, community groups, and public officials; and

WHEREAS, The regulatory structure of the Federal Communications Commission increasingly precludes the expression of alternate and dissonant voices; and

WHEREAS, The Radio Broadcasting Preservation Act of 2000 (RBPA) contains provisions that would prevent the Federal Communications Commission from considering applications from persons or organizations that had previously been unlicensed broadcasters and the RBPA also required increased channel separation between new LPFM stations and other broadcast licensees; and

WHEREAS, the ban on previously unlicensed broadcasters is under constitutional challenge now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court (Petition for writ of certiorari filed May 1, 2003, government brief opposing filed July 7, 2003);
and

WHEREAS the RBPA provision requiring increased channel separation was, under that law, subject to review by a technical study of potential interference; and

WHEREAS, Free Radio Santa Cruz 96.3 FM has operated without interfering with other radio station broadcasts; and

WHEREAS, Free Radio Santa Cruz 96.3 FM has peacefully coexisted with its neighbors throughout its broadcasting history; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission has delivered a notice of unlicensed broadcasting to Free Radio Santa Cruz 96.3 FM on August 28, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Citizens in a democracy require public access to a diverse range of media voices and messages in order to participate fully in our community's shared social, cultural and political life; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Santa Cruz City Council supports Free Radio Santa Cruz 96.3 FM and other local, non-commercial media; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Santa Cruz City Council urges the Federal Communications Commission not to interfere with the functioning of Free Radio Santa Cruz 96.3 FM; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Santa Cruz City Council urges state and local law enforcement officials to refrain from involvement in activities that prevent Free Radio Santa Cruz 96.3 FM and other diverse local media from providing healthy democratic local media in the City of Santa Cruz; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Santa Cruz City Council urges Congress to adopt legislation restoring the cross-ownership ban (newspapers and broadcast media) recently removed by the FCC, and urge the Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to protect content diversity and press freedom by retaining and strengthening existing media ownership regulations, including regulations that limit the number of stations one owner may hold; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Santa Cruz City Council calls upon other local jurisdictions, including the County of Santa Cruz, and the cities of Watsonville and Capitola that have LPFM radio stations, to take actions speaking up for local non-corporate media such as FRSC, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Santa Cruz City Council calls upon Congress to exercise its oversight in the area of federal communications policy through public hearings on media ownership issues; and to pursue legislation aimed at protecting democratic media by prohibiting further media consolidation.