



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo
Eighteenth District
California*

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Acting Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

I write to request your assistance in ensuring the Town of Portola Valley, California, is able to renew its broadcast license. The Town uses this license to communicate public safety announcements to residents and risks not being able to use it during the upcoming wildfire season and in response to pandemic-related communications.

In 2013 the Portola Valley Town Council approved and acquired standard AM broadcast equipment and an FCC license to communicate with its residents, operating under call sign WQQA726. The Town Council's Committee on Emergency Preparedness depends on broadcasting to warn residents of earthquakes, fires, power outages, and public health developments. This is especially critical because many parts of the Town have insufficient broadband and cellular coverage. The radio station is also used to broadcast town meetings.

The Town started a technological upgrade in 2019 and applied for an updated FCC license. In January 2020, the Town submitted to the FCC a request for a Special Temporary Authority (STA) license while awaiting a permanent license. A 120-day STA was approved in February 2020. In May 2020, the Town resubmitted its application for a permanent license and a second STA, which expired in December 2020. This second STA was not renewed. Without a new and proper permit or temporary authorization renewal, the Town is forced to downrate its AM broadcasting services to about 30 percent of its previous power level.

As we prepare for an ever-expanding wildfire season, it is vital that the Town of Portola Valley have the necessary broadcast capabilities to adequately communicate with residents.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation to address this urgent matter, and I look forward to your timely response.

Most gratefully,

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress