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DEPARTMENT OF  
FINANCE

REVENUE DIVISION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

CITY HALL  
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SACRAMENTO, CA  
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June 9, 1989  
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916-449-5454

Budget and Finance Committee  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: USERS TAX - CABLE TELEVISION

SUMMARY

This report requests that the Budget and Finance Committee recommend the City Council impose a 7.5% tax on any person using cable television services in the City of Sacramento.

BACKGROUND

The California State Constitution and the City Charter grant the City the authority to make and enforce all the laws and regulations relating to municipal affairs. Raising sufficient revenue to carry out the City's business is a municipal affair. Unless prohibited or otherwise restricted by a higher legal authority, the City may impose taxes to raise revenue.

DISCUSSION

The City currently imposes a 7.5% tax on any person using intrastate telephone communication services, electrical energy, and gas. Thirty-seven other cities, including Alhambra, Inglewood, Pasadena, San Jose, Stockton, and Vallejo, impose a tax on any person using cable television services. Basic telephone, electric, and gas services are necessary services that citizens must use. Cable television service is a discretionary service that citizens may elect to use.

FINANCIAL DATA

The FY 1989/90 Proposed Budget was balanced assuming that a 7.5% tax would be imposed on users of cable television services effective for all billings for such services made on or after October 1, 1989. The following table summarizes the projected revenue from this source through FY 1993/94.

\$ in thousands  
FY

	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94
General Revenue	\$1,070	\$1,669	\$1,630	\$1,575	\$1,507
Available for Public Safety	77	221	366	525	699
Total	\$1,147	\$1,890	\$1,996	\$2,100	\$2,206

The revenue projections include an allowance for refunding the tax to qualified senior and 100% disabled citizens.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The City must adopt a balanced annual budget. The recommended tax has been incorporated into the FY 1989/90 Proposed Budget. The City Council may elect to:

1. adopt the recommended tax; or
2. substitute another equivalent revenue source; or
3. reduce proposed expenditures by an equivalent amount; or
4. combine alternatives 2 and 3 to maintain a balanced budget


MBE/WBE EFFORTS

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

It is requested that the Budget and Finance Committee recommend the City Council impose a 7.5% tax upon any person using cable television services in the City.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michael L. Medema  
Revenue Manager

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

  
JACK R. CRIST  
Deputy City Manager

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All Districts