

6607 Willow Lane
Mission Hills, KS 66208

March 3, 2000

Ms. Dianne Jacob
Chairwoman
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1800 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, California 92101-2470

Dear Chairwoman Jacob:

Thank you for your February 18th letter to Alan Hasselwander, conveying the request of the San Diego County Board of Supervisor's that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) allow technology-based area codes; implement wireless local number portability, and utilize unused numbers within existing area codes. As I was named to replace Alan as chair of the North American Numbering Council (NANC) last September, I am pleased to respond to your concerns.

I also understand that Jeannie Grimes, in the Network Services Division of the Common Carrier Bureau of the FCC, has already spoken by telephone with the Board's counsel about many of the issues raised in your letter. I hope this is the beginning of continuing and open communications between our offices.

I am sensitive to the Board's concern about the inconvenience and confusion to consumers when new area codes are implemented. The telecommunications market is changing rapidly and numbering is directly impacted. As you may know, the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) is the basic numbering scheme permitting interoperable telecommunication service within the United States, Canada, Bermuda and most of the Caribbean. When it was implemented in 1947 there were 86 area codes for the continental United States. Growth in the use of telephones caused new area codes to be added at the rate of about one per year until the mid-1990s. Then, the growth in new lines for personal computers, faxes and wireless services started generating the need to add dozens of new area codes each year; by 1998, there were 248 area codes in North America (206 in the U.S.).

One of the primary functions of the NANC is to make recommendations to the FCC regarding management of the numbering process and to find ways to extend the life of the NANP. The inconvenience and confusion that would be imposed upon consumers should the NANP prematurely exhaust are unpleasant to contemplate (you may be familiar with the situation in other countries where

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they ran out of telephone numbers and had to change everyone's dialing patterns). Thus, the NANC constantly examines and evaluates a number of alternative solutions, including, as you pointed out, area code splits, thousand block pooling, ten digit dialing and local number portability (LNP).

I can assure you that the NANC is working hard to provide the FCC with its recommendations on such measures. These and other issues are being considered by the FCC in its Numbering Resource Optimization docket (CC Docket 99-200). An order is expected in that proceeding shortly.

On behalf of the NANC, I would like to invite the Board of Supervisors to continue to keep the NANC and the FCC fully informed of your views and experience in the future. Indeed, I hope you and your staff will feel free to call upon me anytime that I can help.

Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,

John R. Hoffman

cc: Yog Varma, Deputy Chief, Common Carrier Bureau
Charles Keller, Chief, Network Services Division
Tejal Mehta, NANC Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Jeannie Grimes