

**220 Spectrum Management Association of Southern California**  
**President's Letter**  
**January 2016**

The 220 SMA's October 2015 quarterly meeting in Torrance featured an interesting discussion of members' respective experiences with recent 220 MHz amateur transceiver models (sorry if you missed this!). But an equally interesting discussion focused on steps our Coordination Board can take to become more productive.

The Coordination Board met once electronically last year, per a decision at our April 2015 meeting in Thousand Oaks. But at our October 2015 meeting there was a sense the Board is impeded by two factors: 1) not having a physical office with a copier machine to meet at; and 2) we have a paper-based postal-mail process for coordination requests and updates requiring a bureaucracy the 220 SMA doesn't really have. What's resulted has been a tremendous burden on one individual, the Secretary of our Coordination Board to handle the flow of paperwork and mail hard copies to Board members, as well as to coordination applicants.

As part of a discussion on accelerating our coordination processes some attendees at the October 2015 SMA meeting felt coordination requesters—not the 220 SMA Coordination Board—should assume the burden of finding a suitable coordination pair when submitting their request. But it also became apparent, through attendee comments, that we lost the ongoing 220 MHz spectrum monitoring capability that several members formerly provided. We also have fallen behind in seeking periodic coordination updates from those holding coordinated frequency pairs in the 222-225 MHz band throughout Southern California.

So how to de-bottleneck our processes and increase 220 SMA throughput? One answer might come from a prevailing general business trend: make your customers do some or more of the work. With consumer products it's often called "Some assembly required"; "Download the manual"; or "Register online." For us, we could implement electronic coordination request packages and update forms or at least require applicants to scan hard copies into PDF files and email those PDFs to the Coordination Board rather use than postal mail. Electronic document submission and document management should become our norm rather than exception.

With regard to monitoring our spectrum, Greg N6GJZ recently suggested we try establishing a monitoring process using our members (in addition to the Coordination Board) for determining whether coordinated frequency pairs are actually being used (or capable of use.)

Let's discuss these productivity improvements at our January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting in Arcadia so our organization can better accomplish our mission.

Happy New Year and 73,

Diana Feinberg, AI6DF

*(Note: the 2015 year-end 220 SMA Financial Statement and budget for 2016 do not appear in this Bulletin and will be distributed at our January 16 meeting in Arcadia.)*