

CapRadio + NSPR, Public Service Operating Agreement

Public Comments and Questions

We are grateful to our listeners for taking the time to reach out to North State Public Radio and California State University, Chico as we consider this important decision. NSPR received hundreds of comments and questions from listeners. NSPR management responded to many questions and in some cases sought responses from CapRadio management when the question was directed more to CapRadio. The FAQs on the NSPR website have been updated to better respond to your comments and questions. It is NSPR policy to withhold the name of the person asking the question unless permission has been expressly asked for and received. Neither NSPR nor CapRadio may publicly comment on personnel related matters. Below are a list of comments and questions received by NSPR.

Respectfully,

Stephen Cummins
Director, University Public Engagement

Comments and Questions 6/23/20 – 7/15/20

I would like to encourage you to keep this station's local roots. I understand that during the pandemic crisis you have partnered with CAP radio in Sacramento but I hope that this is not a permanent arrangement. One of the things that makes this station unique and special is the number of local programs and focus on our communities. Finally, I appreciate that this station has not turned into a daylong "talk radio" format as so many other NPR stations have. We can only handle so much controversy and stress of which news talk is filled these days!

What's this about someone from Sacramento wanting to take over KCHO?
Heard about it this morning
My first response is negative
Further information please

I understand the financial reasons for considering this collaboration and have seen the good reporting that has been done by both NSPR and CAP Radio on the Camp Fire and pandemic, but Sacramento is a much bigger and more commercial (even in public radio) operation, so we will have some difficulty hanging on to our own identity and style.

As a longtime listener, pitcher, and supporter of NSPR, I feel this change as a loss for Chico State and our region. On the other hand, the times demand new approaches to keeping a healthy economic base for all good things in the public sector.

May we read the fine print carefully and not allow our smaller size to make our voices smaller. We lack the muscle of being a station in the state's capital, but our perspective is just as important.

As an NSPR supporter, and a frequent listener to CAP Public Radio, I believe a merger would be a positive step. We, in Far NorCal, are often not kept abreast of statewide news in a timely manner.

I travel to Sacramento often and listen to NSPR until I lose it, then tune to CAP, or KQED.

THANKS,

Don't have any of the specifics, but I trust that you and the NSPR gang including CSU, Chico reps will protect and guide us in what appears to me to be a BIG win for NSPR and the North State. This arrangement seems to be good for us. Go for it! Thanks for requesting response.

You have been doing a wonderful job on your own; only your organization knows if it needs this kind of additional support. Would not like to see you lost the north state focus.

I see no reason to not do this.

I agree with the combination of both stations. I do hope you will do that.

My wife and I are contributors to NSPR and previously to CapRadio when we lived in Elk Grove. We moved up to the North State a year ago. CapRadio is a fantastic organization and one of the best NPR affiliates I've ever listened to. Very professional and their reporting was second to none.

My only question is this: do you see a loss of autonomy coming from this "merger" or simply an improvement in resources to be able to cover the North State? I want what's best for "our station". Again though, my informal experience with CapRadio has been a very positive one. Now, please, just broadcast Nick Brunner's "Hey Listen" on Saturday nights and I'll be one happy man!

The FAQ section answers all of my questions. I hope we retain most of our programs, and possibly gain a few more good ones from CAP.

Sounds like a positive thing, joining with CapRadio.

Whatever happens, please KEEP AMERICAN ROUTES, our favorite radio program.

Thanks!

If this merger occurs, will we lose our local personnel, such as Mike Fishkin? I am just afraid of losing the local touch. I know that this is probably being considered for financial reasons, but Chico north, isn't Sacramento.

I feel that it would be a positive relationship. I support the partnership.

Heard mention of association with Cap Radio this AM.

Assume it is tangentially connected with Humboldt situation, and **wonder what the link to more info is.** I did a quick scan of each drop down at NSPR website & nothing jumped out to me.

I have listened since KCHO was 10 watts ...Had huge yagi on roof in Concow & got pretty nice signal, but actually had the antenna so I could hear KPFA...Thanks for all the improvements over the years.

Any chance of having a "sideband" signal for Classical radio for us up here? We are close to being a serious classical musical desert.

I listen via RadioGarden....and my old truck's radio when I am mobile. I have no cell phone, no cable tv, and no microwave. I could make a crystal radio if times got tough.

I am broke until PG&E pays for "my stuff".

This morning I heard you talk about the proposed management agreement with CapRadio. I just read FAQ's on the NSPR website. As I've mentioned to you before, I live in Sacramento and I am a long time listener of Capitol Public Radio. I began listening to NSPR (on-line) a few years ago when CapRadio changed its schedule, moving Fresh Air to an early afternoon slot from the 9am slot it had occupied. I generally do not listen to the radio in the afternoon, but I listen to Morning Edition every morning and liked having Fresh Air on immediately after.

I urge you to consider this proposed management agreement very carefully. I used to listen to KUOW in Stockton. They had a lot of unique and very interesting programming. I even have a KUOW coffee cup that I got in one of their pledge drives. Then, a couple of decades ago, KUOW entered into a management agreement with CPR, and almost immediately, all the unique programming disappeared. Very quickly, and still today, KUOW became merely a translator for CPR. As a result, I never listen to KUOW any more—there's no point in doing so.

I'm afraid the same would happen with NSPR. The unique programming like Blue Dot, Nancy's Bookshelf, Cultivating Place and Up the Road would disappear, as would the diversity in scheduling. I like having Reveal

and Latino USA aired on weekday mornings, rather than only on weekends as is the case with CPR and KQED. CPR has a single correspondent who reports on issues in Stockton and Modesto. Would Marc Albert become the North State correspondent for CPR while everything else would come from Sacramento? If NSPR were to become another translator for CPR, I would no longer listen. Instead, I would find another NPR station that airs Fresh Air at 9am. I would hate to see that happen.

Again, I urge you to consider this proposed management agreement very carefully.

Finally, I have one other question. What ever happened to Nolan Ford? He was such an energetic and dynamic voice on NSPR who was very different from the usual NPR news anchor, and then one day he was gone without explanation. I hope he has gone on to bigger and better things.

Could you please tell me if this is being done because CSUC wants to drop our local radio station?? It seems like the college is pulling back from everything they can probably to conserve money. But Big Cities do not respect the rural areas and do not get a lot of support from them. Will this turn into the loss of our own news and hearing nothing but Sacramento news?

My concern is that this will not be 'our' station and that current staff will be let go or marginalized. Don't want NSPR to be a subsidiary of CapRadio.

I don't know if the news director is the right person to direct this to but I'm sure you can get it to the right staff member. The locally produced programming is of mixed quality, from Blue Dot Report which is exceptional to Nancy's Bookshelf which leaves much to be desired. In particular Nancy's Bookshelf takes a totally uncritical perspective on anything it airs. While often insightful the show sometimes tolerates outlandish theories and and ignores controversial and hurtful comments acting more as a publicist than a reviewer. Unfortunately this went over the top in the interview of Michelle Schover (sp?) about her book on the Butte County massacres of Native Americans. Referring to Indian Hunters/Killers as trackers and certain groups as "John Bidwell's Indians" is something I thought this community outgrew in the 1960's. Considering all that is going on in this country I hope a little more thought goes into what is put out over the air.

I have no problem with the proposed partnership, which looks like it is primarily help with revenue and infrastructure. However the mention of CapRadio reminded me that NSPR used to air, and CapRadio still airs "Here and Now." The program was, I thought, a very light weight version of a news show, not worthy of NPR. So, partnership is a good idea, but hopefully programming will continue with shows like The Takeaway, The World and Reveal.

Hello...dearly love & depend on NSPR for sane info & entertainment!

Whatever is healthy for the station to survive these challenging times, I am supportive, as long as, the features of the station's programs remain. Change is inevitable, but "change" for change sake is not my comfort zone. So I will stay tuned to hear what ensues..... Thank you for encouraging input on this important proposal.

Hello, I only heard a snippet on NSPR today about the possible merger with Capital Radio, out of Sacramento, I assume.

Some questions:

- Would it mean economy of scale and perhaps more funding for programming?
- Would there be more or less emphasis on local programming, perhaps particularly up here i Redding where the Redding station seems a bit like a stepchild to Chico?
- Would there continue to be both Redding and Chico stations?
- Would reception be solid from Redding, or perhaps Mt. Shasta on down to Sacramento?
- Perhaps you could fill us in on what NSPR sees as the advantages of joining up with Capital (or Capitol) Radio.

Thank you.

I'm concerned about the upcoming changes to NSPR due to the PSOA with CapRadio. I was a listener and member of CapRadio for many years, and am a listener and member of NSPR. I still listen to CapRadio as well as KQEI (a subsidiary of KQED) on my weekly (pre-pandemic) trips to Sacramento. As a daily listener to KFPR I am quite aware that there are ongoing issues with the transmitter on Shasta Bally. It would be nice to have resources to improve the reliability of the hardware and infrastructure. I don't know if the PSOA will allow such a reallocation of funds, but it seems like a possibility. I am not familiar with the status of the rural translators, but expect they're similarly maintenance intensive. Such improvements could be a definite advantage of the PSOA to listeners. Programming however, is also a concern for daily listeners. The FAQ document is not entirely clear on this topic. In one answer it asserts, "Under this agreement North State Public Radio retains its name, brand and programming autonomy from CapRadio..." but also states, "CapRadio will manage daily operations of NSPR, including programming..." I'm left to suppose that NSPR will be responsible to the FCC for programming but will likely leave the decisions of daily programming to CapRadio. What will become of our favorite local productions such as Blue Dot, Up the Road, Cultivating Place, and Nancy's Bookshelf? Will they continue to be produced within the CapRadio budget? Perhaps they will be carried on CapRadio's other stations to a wider audience. Or that wider audience could choose different programming, and our smaller population will not have the numbers to support our local productions. The FAQ document includes the statement that NSPR will continue to broadcast from the Chico studios. But will that just be some sort of electronic patch to connect the CapRadio feed to the NSPR transmitter system? Will there actually be people working in the NSPR studio, speaking into the microphone and addressing local issues, concerns, and emergencies? I am continually impressed with and proud of the news coverage and features from NSPR and very concerned that a PSOA with CapRadio will negatively impact the local focus and production. There already appears to be a tenuous balance between covering the Redding and Burney areas versus the greater Chico area. As management moves south, I fear even less coverage of the far-northern reaches of the listening territory. I worry dedicated employees will lose their jobs to "efficiencies" of scale. As rural communities lose professional local newspapers and media, they come to rely more on social media, which can be dangerous. We need our local professional journalists. When NSPR becomes just a part of the larger operating system of CapRadio, the North State will be competing with the Tahoe area, the Stockton and Delta areas for organizational attention. We've seen this story before and it doesn't end well for those of us in the smaller population areas. I haven't recently followed the ongoing cooperation between KHSU and NSPR, but wonder if that region's concerns will be addressed in the PSOA? I think NSPR does great work, but I envision more rural listener defections to other sources of public radio. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on these upcoming changes. I also appreciate the difficulties of creating quality content in the face of disappearing financial support. I wish I had answers (or a huge endowment) to offer, but I hope NSPR has considered all possibilities. Please remember those of us who rely daily on NSPR for so much of our news and social interaction. I hope we can avoid becoming "Sacramento north" and can maintain an autonomous identity.

Regarding the proposed POSA between KCHO and CAP Radio, my concerns/questions are as follows:

1. Is the proposed POSA available for public review?
2. I understand the economy of scale benefits and the possible efficiency of merging KCHO with CAP Radio; however, a concern is that the needs/interests of the local (and smaller) communities will be lost when a much larger out-of-town entity takes over the KCHO operation.
3. It is asserted that more journalists will be assigned to our region. Is this guaranteed in the POSA?
4. Is Mike Fishkin no longer working at KCHO? The classical music programming appears to originate from Sacramento now.

5. How many of the current KCHO employees will lose their jobs as a result of this merger?

I really enjoy the local aspects of NSPR programming and am a bit concerned that if CapRadio is in control of programming, it might not be as in tuned with our north state. I live in Colusa, so I sometimes listen to CapRadio if NSPR signal falters for whatever reason.

I appreciate that combining will lead to efficiency of managing, fundraising, etc. But will programs like Blue Dot, Cultivating Place, Nancy's Bookshelf, Up the Road, be given the opportunity they deserve in a bigger NSPR/CapRadio operation?

Thanks from a daily listener and supporter,

Is centralization a good thing? A necessary thing?

I am hoping you all can find a way to keep KCHO a part of CSU Chico.

Have you approached Richard Stein about the task? I believe he is well qualified.

<https://www.csuchico.edu/madt/people/faculty/stein-richard.shtml>

I also suggest contacting the team that made it work while I was volunteering.

Lorraine Dechter

Joseph Oleksiewicz

Lollie Deyoung

Tom Gascoyne

Mark Speer

I'm sure you are all aware of the level of respect KCHO news has recently earned, financed in-house.

Good morning.....I'm in the Sierras a lot and catch CapRadio often. Their programming is different---if you experience "poor me", "I was born in a log cabin" to mixed parents", stories in NSPR, you should listen to Sacramento. They have a different audience, more urban, they're carried in Reno and Tahoe and, I'm tempted to believe, they will eventually dominate the NorCal programming. Consider the merge carefully. Thanks.

I live in Penn Valley south of Chico and am not in your "listening area". The reception is better from Chico than Sac, and I like your programing better—more local, rural and the weather reports are more relative to Penn Valley than Sac weather. I hope you will maintain the local flavor. I am a sustaining member.

As an avid listener to NSPR, I would hope that its programming would not change. I listen to NPR where ever I go...from various cities in California and clear across the US...and I've never... to date...found an NPR station to equal that of NSPR. I listen to just about every program when home (whether I'm sewing upstairs or cooking down), (from the Ted Hour, Selected Shorts, Afternoon Classics, Fresh Air....love the interview by Terri, etc.). and have always been amazed at the diversity, integrity, value of local interests/needs, and high standards of professionalism. In short, it's terrific as is....and I would hate to see it change or cater to the wants of a large metropolitan city. Sacramento is a great place...lived there for a few years, but I could see its 'tastes' with it's larger population easily changing the direction/programming. Again, I've listened to dozens of NPR stations, and this one is a gem among them. Please don't change.

How will this effect local coverage?

What guarantees do NSPR staff have for maintaining their current positions? As a loyal listener, this proposed merger appears to be a positive one, giving our journalists more resources at their disposal for investigating and reporting. However, will this jeopardize current NSPR staff employment? Will any local NSPR jobs be lost due to this possible change?

I hope the amazing local shows like Blue Dot continue - and even expand!

I'm concerned that this management agreement will turn out like the one initiated between CapRadio and KUOW in Stockton a couple of decades ago. KUOW became nothing more than a translator for CapRadio and all its unique programming disappeared. Phil Wilke has assured me that this won't happen with NSPR, but I'm still concerned.

I have read the FAQs and it appears that there is no downside and great benefits associated with the Collaboration. I have enjoyed/donated-to KCHO for many years (another \$50 today) and my appreciation has grown with the excellent news and information programs. Phil is doing a great job, as are the producers and hosts. The increased local news programming shows a commitment to providing local/regional information to listeners. Thanks for keeping it going during the Covid 19 challenges.

If Cap radio managed FCC compliance only, fine. I travel widely for work and listen to all north state, southern Oregon, and northern Nevada public radio stations. I would hate for NSPR to become more like Cap Radio. JPR and NSPR are my favorites, keep the professionalism and the home town vibe!

Please don't do this! In just a year or two NSPR will end up subsumed into CapRadio. The North State will lose an important local asset that is reflective of its own community. I listen to both on my commute from Lake Almanor to Quincy. They are different — and that is good. The different perspectives and priorities provide a different product. This merger result in just more bland sameness.

I am glad to hear you are considering a more accessible location for the west side transmitter; that will help I am sure. Since that area was decimated by the Carr Fire, there really is no reason for PG&E to cut power there anymore. It is mostly bare rock. Maybe you can give me an update on that project? It does seem, especially since the fire, that bits and pieces of electronic equipment interrupt the programs with noise and intermittent loss of signal with a little more frequency.

It wasn't clear from what I did read of the proposed agreement that there would be programming control locally, since the agreement transfers all programing to Cap/Radio, along with fundraising, etc. as noted. Once the purposes were outlined, I felt it was important to share some of what I have learned while working in our rural communities up here.

What is interesting, I must say, is that you missed addressing a number of issues that do not appear to be well-reviewed publicly. That is, the choice is up to the respective boards, and not up to the subscribers/ members or the public. You see it as a chance to get more personnel up here to report on our issues, while ignoring the fact that issues in greater Sacramento area far exceed (and therefore claim higher priority) than those up here. It is simple logistics: our wheels do not squeak as loudly when managed from afar.

Be that as I may, I am most concerned that you failed to reassure me that indeed your team did put together a feasibility study, or at least a costs/benefits ratio for others who question this move. It makes the move look questionable, a shuffle. You ask that we give the move a chance without giving us anything to support it other than your assurances that the respective Board Members will do the right thing.

So please permit me to ask again:

- Did your team do feasibility studies of these changes, and if so, how can we obtain a copy of those studies?
- What are the financial impacts of these changes in terms of service needs, operating costs, and staffing?
- If all management is in Sacramento, even though there will be staff in Chico, where do the members/listeners go to address their questions?

- Other than having access to Sacramento journalists who would need to drive up to our area to work on our stories, what other benefits will be achieved and specifically how will this improve the station's services to its public?
- Perhaps this whole process could slow down a little so we are all on the same page with your enthusiasm for these changes?

There are many more questions, but that is because a contract or agreement is written with certain assumptions made as fact, most of which are not available for anyone to analyze and come to the same conclusions your team has reached.

It seems my remarks hit on something. I certainly cannot be the only person who thought more information was needed or that a public rethinking of the proposal might be wider than a town hall meeting with Chico-area folks. I usually refrain from commenting on things like these because usually they are motivated by internal maneuvering that most people prefer to let pass by.

Since we listen to NSPR almost exclusively, we have heard the call for comments, but do not see that the comments you have received are posted on your website. Perhaps it would be useful if you did so in order to demonstrate sincere public response to the proposal?

Thank you for considering these and my earlier comments. A good dialogue can only benefit this project. And please remember, my reference to having JPR as an alternative service is reflective of

Not a question. A comment. I am against the CapRadio and NSPR Collaboration proposal. I used to travel to Sacramento for work and listened to CapRadio while in that region. The local team talked to much, they interrupted NPR programing all the time. They loved listening to themselves. They had too many commercials (remember, non-commercial radio?). I think NSPR will lose it's local feel and responsibility to the North State area. I also fear that CapRadio will change the programing to suit their audience, not Chico and the North State. We will be out voted and get more of the CapRadio programming to "save money." And more of their endless talk, talk, talk.

CapRadio is way too much like KQED Radio in the Bay Area. Before Covid 19 stay at home I had to travel to San Jose twice a month and had to endure the endless local personalities talk, and talk, and talk and interrupt NPR every top and bottom of the hour. Their stories were Sooo important (WRONG!).

KQED and CapRadio beg for money 3 - 4 - 5 times a year, taking out 20 - 40 % of Morning Edition and All Things Considered EVERY day for weeks on end. Yet they leave their local programming alone, not one interruption of their own programs during their "fund drives".

I am a sustaining member and have been for years. I would have to reconsider my monthly donation if this collaboration agreement goes through. I listen to NSPR for NPR and the programing from NPR, American Public Media and others. Not to listen to CapRadio local programming. I personally don't like KQED's "California Report" because 50% of the time it's just NPR stories rehashed or out of state stories.

I hope that this collaboration brings sophisticated programming to NSPR. I gave up on NSPR in favor of CPR live streaming. NSPR programming ignores local news (with a journalism department at CSU Chico, this should be a natural) in favor of idiosyncratic programs which fit a narrow niche: gardening hosted by a falsely earnest hammy word-smith (slotted on a Sunday morning when we need to hear news and analysis), a travelogue narrated by a faux erudite guide, esoteric book reviews hosted by an interviewer more interested in relating her story than asking good questions of authors, goofy spacey music, and twangy hillbilly licks (on weekends). The sole bright light in the programming line-up is Pale Blue Dot, a genuine gem of production and interviewing. I hope CPR will bring solid programming exemplified by Beth Ruyak, Shankar

Vedantam, Sean Bianco and supplemented by local news coverage. If that occurs, I can shift my financial support from CPR back to NSPR.

My judgment is harsh because we deserve better and with some luck, CPR will provide it. Thank you and good luck.

How will the balance sheet of Cap Radio be protected from the egregious financial mismanagement of Stephen Cummins?

- 1) Will member surveys be done to assure that the most supporters most popular programs are kept on the schedule?
 - 2) Two factor authentication would make donating more secure. This should be considered.
-

Why? Will this enhance north state coverage? Will the programming change? What about the locally produced programs. Sac is urban the north state isn't. Sac has constant fund drives. Who gets the financial gain? Is there one? I need more information. At this point I am unsure of this move.

I'm confused by some info in the FAQs...on one hand you say CapRadio will "manage" programming for both NSPR and CapRadio and then there is this statement -- "Under this agreement North State Public Radio retains its name, brand and programming autonomy from CapRadio." Does this mean NSPR will retain its current programming? I truly love the Jazz series M-F and Tapeta Lucida which is NSPR's original series. I think many NSPR listeners would like more specific information on programming changes -- programs and times -- if any. Thank you SO much for being here for the North State all these years. It has meant the world to many of us in Chico.

After this partnership, will NSPR have 2 frequencies, one for News, and one for Music as CapRadio does? I like this idea but think local folks should have input.

Sounds like a good partnership.

Will the listeners of NSPR be consulted on whatever program changes are being considered as a result of the collaboration? And will there still be a role for Mike Fishkin under the new arrangement?

We occasionally listen to Cap radio and enjoy the programming there. This sounds like a positive idea as long as it does not diminish local coverage on NSPR - which has recently improved and been much appreciated.

Great idea. This is a big win for the north state. Thank you CapRadio and NSPR.

I have been a evergreen member of both in NSPR and CapRadio for many years. I appreciate both stations. I am concerned that an NSPR would lose their local focus. Only time will tell. Thank you.

I wholeheartedly support this proposal. I believe it will strengthen the local service and give us more variety over time. I plan to increase my pledge if it happens.

I think this makes sense, especially in a time of scarce resources. Congratulations! I'm sure negotiations took a lot of time and effort

Yay! Makes total sense.

While I support NSPR, I usually listen to CapRadio for better content. I wholly approve of this collaboration.

I would trust that NSPR's programming would be maintained to reflect its role in the True North State and not be governed by Central California. We may have a smaller population footprint but you serve a far larger geographic area and given the past couple of years, NSPR's role in getting the NEWS out to that population has truly saved lives. And Please Don't Drop the BBC in the Night slot. Thank you

This looks like a clear winner of NSPR but why would Cap Radio want to do this?

Good idea to work with cap radio.

I am very happy with the local programming mix done by NSPR. My concern is, with the change, future programming will reflect that of the Sacramento area or more like the national NPR. While traveling I have been listening to NPR through SiriusXM and am very disappointed in the programming direction it has taken. If the programming of NSPR moves in the direction of the national version you will lose my support. I grew up in Chico, live in Saratoga, CA, and have a 2nd home at Lake Almanor and a daughter who lives in Reno. We like and are members of CapRadio because of valley service. We listen to NSPR at Almanor and donate occasionally to NSPR (small\$), particularly in support of Paradise fire work. If operating efficiencies result for both, then that is a vote in favor. If NSPR existence is at stake, then that is a "do it now". I feel strongly that NSPR should have its own local coverage and Chico or Redding flavor so not just drive-by coverage and ads from Sacramento. Likely you feel same way. I'm generally in favor of the deal, the more so if Chico flavor retained. Side note. Because of the geography and a notch in the hills we actually get CapRadio in Saratoga at our home at 500 ft elevation and occasionally listen to it there. We are listeners to KQED, KDFC, and CapRadio. Good luck

I've been a KCHO/NSPR member since moving from Sacramento to Chico in 2006. Before that, I was a KXJZ/KXPR/CapRadio member for about 15 years. I'm proud of NSPR- you guys are spunky and committed to the North State. But, if growth and even survival mean you have to join a larger organization, I understand that completely. I have full faith in CapRadio. If they'll commit to serving all of NSPR's listening community like they serve their current one, I'll commit to supporting the new, combined entity as a sustaining member.

I don't want to lose the local touch. Chico north, isn't Sacramento. I listen because of the local programming, and of course national news.

1. How will decisions be made regarding local programming, such as whether or not to continue with Blue Dot, Nancy's Bookshelf and to continue with local hosts, such as Mike Fishkin, all of which have distinguished KCHO from other public radio stations?
 2. Will local folks have a voice in such decisions? Or will we simply become CAP Radio north?
 3. Given that there may be some benefit from affiliated with the larger organization, will that benefit outweigh the loss of local autonomy and a strong connection with the local community?
 4. Is KCHCO viable on its own? Is this decision being driven by CSUC's desire to cut back on its support? Will KCHO now become dependent on the CSUS budgetary decisions?
 5. Recognizing that membership drives may have been hurt by the inability of the station to use local folks to help in on-the-air pledge drives due to the virus, will becoming part of CAP radio make this a permanent change?
-

I trust that NSPR has the best interest of its listeners, but I/we just want to make sure that a NSPR/Cap Radio agreement will CONTINUE to deliver local news coverage and special reports, and NOT be overwhelmed

with news/reports from the Sac-Metro area. Thus, as long as long as the real North State isn't neglected I don't see a problem with the PSOA.

I have read your Q&As...They present an almost seamless transition, as if KCHO becoming NSPR was just an alphabetical improvement.

I believe there is something expected beside the SHORT TERM ASSURANCES that were mentioned in the Q&As. I would ask what LONG TERM IMPROVEMENTS are envisioned. I don't believe anyone is wishing for a reduction in service or programming

Can you mention what convinced you that this would be a great thing for the future of one of the largest radio program providers north of the Sutter Buttes?

What plans are there to address the frequent outages in KFPR, both the problems with trying to transmit from Shasta Bally [LONG lapses in service] and the problem of short loss of service that seems to happen sometimes daily and almost always numerous times during a average week?

I am all for this collaboration if it means more attention to Redding. Jefferson Public Radio dominates this market and I feel Chico has abandoned us. Many people here have never heard of KFPR. Everyone knows about JPR and are supporters.

What aspects of local control and local decision making will be lost under this agreement? What local programming will be eliminated? How will Chico area news coverage be affected? How will Chico area listeners be able to have a voice in decisions?

I have lived in Redding for 23 years and have been a member of KFPR all those years, many of them a sustaining member. I can never remember anyone seeking input from listeners about anything, ever, and certainly not programming. I am still angry that Here and Now disappeared without notice and no opportunity to comment.

In my opinion, after reading the FAQs, it looks like a good agreement. We do have the option to leave if it doesn't work out.

I switched from listening to Capradio to you partly because I didn't like one of their sponsors and their attitude about that company, So I'm very disappointed to hear about this collaboration.

1. What personnel changes will result from this agreement?
 2. Will we still have local hosts?
 3. NSPR doesn't seem to have any organized community input to the station. Is there a group affiliated with the station composed of interested community members that could respond to planned changes in programming or other matters? Is there a reason for this?
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So I can now drop my financial to either Cap Radio or MYNSPR with a clear conscious. I guess it remains to be seen how this moves forward but I like the local control of my media. I fear that in the long term the staff of MYNSPR will be terminated and operations consolidated for cost savings to the CSU Chico Foundation. Best of luck!

Sounds like a good move.

Sounds like a win win. We listen to CapRadio a lot on our travels through the Sacramento area.

After reading your FAQ page, I feel better about this agreement. However, I am concerned that the NSPR programming and times that I enjoy, rely on, and look forward to, will likely change given the larger listening population. I am a sustaining member and will continue my pledge to support independent news and programming as long as humanly possible. Thank you for your service to your listening public; we appreciate it more than we can say.

I fully understand the need for this collaboration. I will continue to support NPR and this new collaboration as it adds to the quality of my life in the north state.

I understand this may be a fiscal necessity, given the very trying economic times, but I am troubled by the proposed change. I very much value NSPR and the local leadership and affiliation with CSUC. Unless it is absolutely necessary, I would prefer NSPR to maintain autonomy.

Reading the proposal it sounds good, but what is in it for Cap Radio? Why should they do so much for poor little Chico?

I am a skeptic...seven decades long. Larger entities taking over smaller ones (and yes, this is the beginning of a takeover) ultimately results in the interests of the larger overcoming the interests of the smaller. I have no "weight" in this, as I am not a financial supporter of KCHO; but I listen daily. I live in Redding. So long as the national programs are not tampered with, I'll be satisfied. But if (when, likely) north state programming is absorbed/replaced by Sacramento programming, CapRadio will be the victor. My bet is, that will be the case within a year...maybe two. NSPR will probably cease to exist, except, perhaps, in name only. I do hope you prove me wrong.

My comment is that everything changes, better or worse. I hope that the powers at be assess our community needs, complexion and sensibility that reflect who we are.

I think collaboration with Cap radio is a great idea

I read the FAQ about the CapRadio takeover, if that is not too strong a term. My worry is that NSPR will exist in name only, and North State concerns/issues will become, at most, an after-thought to the programming management. I would also expect there to be "down-sizing"; top-heavy management, cuts to personnel who actually do the work for NSPR.

This is just me, but I consider any part of California south of highway 20 to be a foreign country. I don't believe that CapRadio will ever really care about us.

NSPR/Cap sounds like a win for all especially those of us in North State. I offer encouragement to finalize collaboration.

I am opposed; these things are rarely actually equally managed and I do not wish to become beholden to the greater Sacramento area. Additionally, we appreciate our eclectic hosts and homegrown projects. Sacramento is not the North State and by definition, has different priorities.

I fully understand the need for this collaboration. I will continue to support NPR and this new collaboration as it adds to the quality of my life in the north state.

Great idea. This is a big win for the north state. Thank you CapRadio and NSPR.

I am also a member of KQED San Francisco. Will NSPR continue current programming or include more news related programs as Michael Krasny's morning programs?

Overall sounds positive. Who in Chico loses their job?

Your Q&A states that CapRadio will be responsible for daily operations of NSPR including programming. But then you say that programming decisions will stay in the North State at NSPR. How do you reconcile this discrepancy? My biggest concern is with independence of programming. Although I do believe some improvements in programming are possible and I have often listen to CapRadio when in the Sacramento area, I appreciate and enjoy the different programming of NSPR. Therefore this proposed PSOA concerns me. Many of the best programs of NSPR have local origins. I do not want to see these disappear. I would like more reassurance in a PSOA that CSE would have more power in programming locally.

My husband and I have been members of NSPR and its several former iterations for decades. We have applauded the increase in local news coverage and programming, particularly the excellent, wide-ranging attention to the Paradise fire and coronavirus pandemic. While we don't always appreciate a few of the local programs, the direction toward coverage specific to this region is positive.

We understand the benefits from the economy of scale that collaboration with CapRadio would bring. On weekends we often turn to CapRadio for "On the Media" and other programs NSPR does not carry. Our concern is the gradual loss of the North State voice to the louder, better funded Capital voice.

How can you assure us this will not happen? We are already marginalized in the media world with the loss of Feather Publishing Co. in Plumas and Lassen counties, and the dramatic reduction of news coverage at The Sacramento Bee.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment and question.

The PSOA sounds like a good idea. Cap/Sacramento is a quality station.

Let's go for it! Sounds like NSPR will be in a better place for this - and, as a result, the community will be, too.

This all looks good to me. When I travel south I often listen to CapRadio when I get out of range of NSPR. Their programming is excellent.

I was a long time member until you started taking BBC 10 am news hour off, first for a local wannabe and then eventually for all of the week. Now my entire life has been changed because I have to stay up until after midnight to get reliable and extensive international news. This means I sleep in and miss the national morning news shows. Also this BBC is at the beginning of the news day and not the 5pm news summaries that I used to receive. I am aware of the midday World program, but it isn't the same.

I was also turned off by the extensive personal musing by people on the pledge drives - on an on about nothing of importance, just their lives. In my opinion pledge drives should be used just to thank people and give the phone number.

If this joint venture with Cap Radio will provide more national and international and less local (when we are out of the covid 19 era) I would be very much interested in the collaboration. How does CapRadio benefit from this collaboration?

I'm a sustaining member of NSPR and a sometime listener of CapRadio. I approve of this collaboration. The only show I don't care for on their lineup is Here and Now. I much prefer The Takeaway and The World. Just sayin'.

Re: the merger with Cap Radio:

Speaking as a listener rather than as a volunteer music host, I would like to know more about prospective changes in programming. I strongly oppose any move that would make NSPR an all news/talk station more than it has already become.

After a preliminary look at what is being proposed I would support this collaboration. Especially if it means that you stay on the air more than you have over the last year. I live in Manton and numerous times for my area and I believe most of Redding you have been off the air due to either weather, faulty equipment or something. Also would be much happier if you didn't have 5 afternoons of classical music and the four nights of evening jazz. I like jazz but your show plays some of the worst. Love most of the rest of your programming.

Other than that I love your station and you provide the best and most informative programming here in the north state!!

I listened to the CapRadio as a CSUS student in the 70s, and now as a Medicare-age grandmother when visiting grandkids in Auburn area. I appreciate what they have to offer, especially as they are located in the heart of state government. I see the collaboration-cooperation as a win-win. The 90-day notice to terminate gives the flexibility to both sides if it doesn't work out.

I am concerned about losing our local programming such as "Blue Dot Report" or the special local programming like the daily COVID reporting.

Is there any financial benefit to NSPR/CapRadio? What are the possible downsides to this management merger?

As an avid listener of both CapRadio and NSPR, I am very eager to hear the news of the collaboration and excited for all the benefits to come!

I was listening to NSPR yesterday and you asked listeners what they thought about the proposed North State Public Radio (NSPR) and CapRadio Public Service Operating Agreement (PSOA). One of the arguments to combine with CapRadio is that CapRadio has an award-winning operation, including a stable of more than 30 journalists, a large staff of producers and engineers, and a talented team of public radio development, sponsorship, and marketing professionals that would help improve NSPRs programming. This may be true, but NSPR could do the same thing and actually do it better than CapRadio. There are plenty of Chico State Students and professionals in the Chico area that would love to have the opportunity to get involved in producing, engineering, and reporting for NSPR. I think that NSPR should not give up operations to CapRadio. Giving up operations to Cap Radio will make NSPR less local and less able to make decisions at a local level. It's been my experience that as companies get bigger they get less personal. If NSPR teams up with CapRadio I think NSPR will feel less personal and less local.

Sounds like a good idea.

We are longtime supporters of NSPR and we both think this cooperative agreement will be good. I like that you maintain local control of proگرامing. It also seems possible to back out of the agreement if needed.

Didn't CapRadio and the UOP NPR station do something like this several years ago? We used to travel regularly between Modesto and Oroville and have listened to all 3 NPR stations regularly.

Will any of the current paid employees in Chico and Redding lose their jobs?

I am a long-time listener and monthly, sustaining member of KCHO/NSPR. I have read about the proposed collaboration with CapRadio and the FAQs and have serious concerns about this proposed merger. First, I am not interested in an increased reporting of news from the Sacramento area with a related decrease in coverage of North State news. Despite the plans best and best intentions of NSPR staff, I believe this would be an unintended and unwelcome consequence of such a proposed agreement over time, even if not initially. Second, my interests lie in the North State, specifically the NSPR listening area, and my loyalties are to KCHO/NSPR. I am dedicated to NSPR and, no offense to the personnel in Sacramento, not at all interested in supporting CapRadio. Finally, unless there is an immediate and otherwise unsolvable need to join forces - to maintain or establish financial solvency, for example - I urge you to reconsider this proposal. Otherwise, we stand to lose that which makes NSPR unique, separate, and independent from Sacramento media. Thank you for soliciting listener feedback from me and my North State neighbors and for considering my concerns.

Would this "collaboration" result in reducing or eliminating local/regional staff? The increase in excellent locally produced programs, including expanded news coverage, is the hallmark of a mature broadcast station. I would not want to see local radio journalists or programmers be cast aside to make room for CapRadio producers. Nor would I want to miss some of the progressive voices of Reveal, The Takeaway or Latino USA. CapRadio's choice of Here and Now would be a step backward in engaging, thought provoking morning listening. I will try to take part in your Wednesday Town Hall! Thanks for taking our input.

I listen to NSPR every morning. When I'm traveling to my son's in Sonora, I listen to CapRadio, when I'm out of range of NSPR. My concern with the collaboration is continuity of local programs. I especially enjoy Cultivating Place and Blue Dot. The coverage of the effects of the Camp Fire has been outstanding. It would be disappointing to lose those programs.

I think you've got this backward. Wouldn't you want comments AFTER your seminar on the 8th? Just saying"

Will the North State news team still be reporting and contributing to the local news. The articles by Sarah Bohannon have been excellent. I would hate to lose their voice. Will it change the reach of the station's over the air signal? I think it is important to all the north state, to receive your over the air signal. Will it increase the news coverage in Redding and surrounds? That has been lacking, of late. Will you continue your local programming efforts? This is something I value. Will you expand the classical music programming? Not my cup of tea and I seldom listen during that time. Sorry Mike. Will we lose any of our news shows? I only listen to nspr. Will my donations go exclusive to your station? I Hope so. What are the down sides of this arrangement? Must be some. I have been a member and listener to nspr most of my adult life. So, I am very passionate about its survival.

Please honor your listeners, by careful consideration of the ramifications of this partnership.

Thanks

NSPR (KCHO as I know it from the 70's) is sounding less and less like a local station. You ought to maintain a live person/announcer for every program, a live local person who is knowable behind the voice, relatable to our community, relatable to the listeners. That is something really good about the "good old days"!

Absolutely not! I moved to Chico 2 years ago to get away from Sacramento. Why bring it here? I felt Cap Radio's programming was weak - and biased - don't believe it can serve the needs of the North State. Please do not allow this merger to happen. Thanks!

Will we still get classical music and local news?

Hi Folks - I've been a sustaining monthly debit donor for decades and have lived with this station ever since arriving here in 1983. I listen to this station every day.

That said, over the years the station has become less and less our "community radio station". Our "other" local station, KZFR , gives us much more community event awareness and discussion of local politics. What's happening around Chico? I get that from KZFR and the CN&R, because NSPR doesn't know and doesn't provide it. Until the Camp Fire, and until Marc Albert, KCHO gave us no LOCAL news whatsoever. Since the fire and during this pandemic, NSPR has finally begun to "look like" a local resource and asset.

I dont know what's behind this proposed "merger". My guess is that you are trying to save money. But if this means losing/decreasing Mr. Albert and local news, count my donations out. If this means losing a great classical programmer like Mr. Fishkin, count me out. David Basse and jazz? Best score you've made in years. If I want to listen to a Sacramento radio station I'll move to Sacramento. What we have here is special. Please don't blow it.

Over the years we have witnessed numerous newspapers consolidate. Most of them were competing publications within a local market. That made good sense to me. Also, I really appreciated how KCHO has been re-broadcasting recent Covid-19 investigative reporting from CapRadio, in Sacramento. That consolidation of resources is an effective technique to expand your reporting efficiently.

Beyond that short term teamwork, I'll need to see and hear a much more detailed explanation of the relationship that you are proposing, before I am pleased with this partnership.

Living down by the Sutter Buttes, I am already in the unique position to listen regularly to both stations. I usually listen to and am a sustaining member of Chico because I really appreciate the national & local news reporting, the diversity of programming and I am a regular member of your community,

But many times when I am working creatively on my computer, or researching online or from my library, I need silence or background music, not engaging dialog. So I listen to CapRadio. I appreciate having the choice. I can see where a partnership increases the listening influence of a Sacramento radio station, but I can't see how Chicoans will be interested in Capitol City activities (except of course political decisions that affect the entire state)

It is a paramount concern to me that we do not lose our right of local programming determination.

I support this proposed change!!

Comment: Associating with Sacramento would, in my opinion, lead to the elimination of local coverage and move the focus to the Sacramento, San Joaquin area focus. it would make a political statement that centers

on what Capital politicians want to hear, not on what you've been doing in the North State. Please keep it local, focused on "North of Sac" and giving really good coverage to our rural counties and events. I really don't want to hear anything from Sacramento that doesn't impact or concern our rural counties.

I'm concerned that although this collaboration will bring additional resources will there be loss of local control? Will a focus or theme in time become more Sacramento centered. Maybe some positives there for us in superior California but the 'North State' is not Sacramento. Even more local news than we have now is needed. I get most of my necessary daily news from NSPR and local newspapers (one of which is now gone). I am a regular donor and occasional fund drive participant. My listening time is several hours per day and archives, too.

People in Humboldt County have had a very negative response to being controlled by CAP Radio. It was shocking to me too to hear no local information. It was completely Sacramento (and Reno) centric--no local flavor or content that I heard while listening. I don't want to see that in Butte County although I have loved the increased presence of CAP radio we have now. I love Public Affairs programming and am always happy to listen but hate to lose local control and priorities. Thank you to the local people who have been producing the news since 2018. KCHO has just gotten better and better. I don't think consolidation is the answer but collaboration, definitely!

I am concerned about local coverage if we are taken over by Cap Radio. I am a member.

As an entree into the big questions here, let's explore the station names -NSPR (North State Public Radio) and CapRadio (capitol-Sacramento coverage area). The demographics, economy, geography, scale and therefore the daily lived lives and pressing concerns of both the media and the inhabitants of Sacramento/the state capitol differs wildly from that of the North State. How can NSPR not be subsumed under the larger, more resourced CapRadio? For example, full NSPR say in the retention of current news workers as well as the hiring of more, future Chico-Redding reporters. Current percentage of local programming kept and/or expanded vis a vis CapRadio offerings? Also the management of daily operations by Cap Radio from the FAQ. Does that mean Cap Radio personnel in Sacramento manages from a far, not physically on site. Perhaps Zoom?

Will any present NSPR employees lose their jobs? Do you think that NSPR will maintain its uniqueness, or possibly get absorbed under the larger umbrella of CapRadio's influence? (I am sorry, but I am unavailable for today's virtual town meeting.)

Is this collaboration proposed because it seems to be the only way to "save" the station?

Hoping my favorite voices and programs retain their jobs (Sara Bohannen, Ken Duval, blue dot, up the road, hearts of space). While I like CapRadio it feels like a Sacramento station. NSPR is awesome, hope it remains that way.

Is this collaboration partly because NSPR is having economic difficulty keeping up, especially with COVID?

CAP staff are employees of what entity? NSPR staff will be employees of whom?
What's in it for CAP-PR? We get news pieces from them already?

Who gets the final say over programming, staff?

Thank you.

I intend to attend the town hall this afternoon, but in case my initial questions aren't asked or answered there...

1. The collaboration agreement obviously portends realizing a certain scale of efficiency. Does that mean there will be downsizing of the NSPR staff, particularly the general manager and his backroom staff?
 2. Will fundraising drives be consolidated or will they continue to be run independently of each other? If consolidated, how will the funds raised be allocated between the stations?
 3. To what extent will the new relationship facilitate greater career opportunities for local staff?
 4. If CSUC will provide operational oversight while management functions are moved to Cap Radio, what will be Cap Radio's new relationship with Sac State?
 5. What exactly is driving this move forward, aside from the obvious benefits to the listening audience? In other words, to what extent are financial challenges the issue? Is it related to the CUSC system's budget shortfall?
-

I look forward to the updating of the FAQs. I asked seven or eight questions in the Q&A, of which only two were addressed during the program. Hopefully, they will be answered elsewhere; I won't remember to ask them again.

I'm favorably impressed by NSPR's outreach and effort to seek public comment and input. Are similar efforts taking place on the CapRadio side? They indicate they have a listener-centric philosophy. Is that apparent in this case as well?

Two Media Literacy Questions: (1) Regarding regional Media Literacy. Can you list in maybe an email back to me soon the names of all the seven CAP stations and their journalists such as Randol White who I believe I read is in Sacramento

(2) Much of media literacy is also knowing the credentials of the broadcasters on the air. The "how to" for journalists to be forever striving to avoid ideological biases (e.g., those dangerous words that divide the nation, merits discussion.

Cap Radio partnership:

As an avid listener and supporter of NSPR, I welcome any move that helps keep public radio viable and accessible to the listening public. If a partnership will help cut costs, expand fundraising, ensure that towers and signals can be maintained and repaired quickly and keep the station working without sacrificing the availability of signal over the current service area, then I am overwhelmingly positive about the possibility. I would gladly speak with the board and manager via phone or in person when needed as a avid supporter.

I am very concerned with losing the local content and announcers that I enjoy on NSPR. I live in Marysville, and have the choice of Cap Radio from Sacramento or NSPR. NSPR Chico is definitely my preferred station. I see that your FAQs state that programming will remain, but will be reevaluated later. Unfortunately I am afraid that will result in NSPR just broadcasting Cap Radio content for efficiency and cost. I sincerely hope that I am wrong. CAP staff are employees of what entity? NSPR staff will be employees of whom?

What's in it for CAP-PR? We get news pieces from them already?

Who gets the final say over programming, staff?

Thank you.

This seems like another regional takeover by Cap radio, similar to the takeover of KUOP Stockton many years back. As in Stockton, this will result in the loss of local programming and flavor. The majority of Cap Radio daytime programming is NPR feed and you can hear it anywhere. Cap radio has been increasing it's coverage over the north state for years. Soon there will be just 2 NPR stations in NorCal - KQED and Cap Public Radio. So much for diversity and localism.

CAP staff are employees of what entity? NSPR staff will be employees of whom?

What's in it for CAP-PR? We get news pieces from them already?

Who gets the final say over programming, staff?

Thank you.

I missed the town hall meeting. I have heard the psa announcements regarding the proposed merger. I listen to Cap Radio often while traveling. The psa mentions fund raising, I hate the way Cap Radio raises funds. They constantly cry out for funds - it drives me nuts. I send contributions to four NPR stations, I favor NSPR because you are my home station. Please do not adopt the Cap Radio model for fundraising. I like the silent drive - less interruptions are better. Thanks

Hi. I support the partnership with Cap Radio. I would like to see more substantive programs such as those on Cap Radio, so yippee. I also hope they strengthen the Redding repeater.

As a longtime sustaining member I was very concerned when I first heard about this shift, though I immediately understood why such a move might be necessary and advantageous. After reading your FAQs, my concerns have been addressed, if things proceed as stated. You have been given control over a North State jewel. Even those of us who have moved away--I currently live in Charleston, SC--rely on NSPR for news about the region we call 'home'. I support this move, but I emphatically ask that you treat this move with the cultural and fiduciary respect that it deserves.

I suspect this takeover is all budget driven, and maybe a done deal already. The info online (including in the FAQ) is incomplete and does not explain the real need to combine with Cap Radio. Rather than the patronizing, "we'll improve service" language, please explain the real reason for the takeover. If all the info were available, I would be able to make an informed opinion. The Pollyanna statements you have provided here does not bode well for the future of Cap Radio taking over NSPR. As of now, I do not support this move--mostly because the lack of information makes me think this is a take over not a "collaboration". I believe this arrangement can only result in lesser and eventual loss of north state news- if not right away then very soon and certainly whenever budgets get tight. For instance, why would Reno/Stockton listeners care about events in Redding/Red Bluff/Chico, will we have to listen to traffic reports for the Sac area? The Cap Radio programming is so specific to the Sac area, we don't want to listen to Insight- a show focused on Sacramento issues? Why would Reno/Stockton/Sac want to hear about Paradise water issues? Please provide honest, complete info, don't lose your integrity by just trying to sell this.

Will NSPR lay off staff as a result of this agreement?

Are there any alternatives being considered?

What do you see as the downsides of this proposed collaboration?

Is NSPR in trouble financially?

This has been a rough few years for KFRP listeners due to frequent outages. Do you anticipate that this proposed agreement will help get the equipment upgraded so that this is not such a frequent problem? While I am at it, as a courtesy to your listeners, you should post those outages on your website with an estimated signal restoration date if available.

My biggest concern is around programming. I have appreciated so many of the programs we have at NSPR: Science Friday, Blue Dot, Cultivating Place, Up the Road, Alt Latino, Fresh Air, All Things Considered, All Songs Considered, Latino USA, Marketplace, Morning Edition, On Being, Radio Lab, The Moth Radio Hour, The Splendid Table, This American Life, Wait Wait don't tell me, BBC. (I've probably missed some as i don't always remember the titles) We have benefited from the local coverage on the Paradise fire and the ongoing need for support, the COVID-19 coverage both the local and the messages from the governor. When we drive to the airport we frequently have to switch over to CAP and i have not been impressed with the programming. It seems like there is more "talk radio" and traffic reports. I am always happy when we get back into NSPR neighborhood. I understand the station already has a huge area in Northern California to represent and i just wonder if that will get more diluted as it expands its partnership with CAP. We listen daily, and are monthly contributors and have been for over 10 years.

It sounds like a reasonable and fiscally responsible collaboration. I enjoy the programming content on both stations.

I am a member of KCHO which I support with a monthly contribution. While I can understand the potential financial advantages of the proposed collaboration, and I have no doubt about the good intentions of CapRadio, I am OPPOSED to the proposed collaboration on the basis that it will decrease the decentralized control of media, and that KCHO can't help but lose some of its concern for, and focus on, Chico, Redding and surrounding communities and the land of Northern California. Over the years I have seen too many examples of small businesses and organizations that get absorbed by larger ones with all of the good intentions in the world, but eventually, sooner or later, the smaller group loses its identity and focus, and the purpose it serves is lost. Already Northern California is losing its local media and the proposed collaboration would only continue down the same course. So I request that NSPR not make this agreement with CapRadio. Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Seems like a great partnership that will expand coverage/support and be a benefit to all areas/communities.

It seems that you want to enter into this collaboration, and of course you know more about it than I do. However, Cap Radio is a very slick operation. I would be sad to see KCHO turn into a radio station with that kind of big-city feeling.

I am concerned that this merger will impact negatively on local businesses that support the current NSPR through sponsorship by putting them in competition with Sacramento area firms. In this time of economic uncertainty I would say steady as she goes.

In the last 3 years, how much financial support has CSU, Chico provided NSPR. How much has Chico State and/or CSE provided the station? I am particularly interested in cash support, as opposed to "indirect" or "in kind" support. Is the appropriation under "Related Party Support, General Appropriations"? If the PSOA goes

through, will CSU, Chico/CSE reduce its support for the station? What will happen if the PSOA does not go through?

I want to express my support of the proposed partnership between NSPR and CapRadio.

I live in Redding and currently listen to both NSPR and CapRadio on a regular basis. I consider NSPR my local station and I want the station to continue serving this area. However, I often listen to CapRadio because of their programming. To me, this partnership is the best of both worlds.

I reviewed the information online and participated in the Town Hall. I appreciate how candid both NSPR and CapRadio reps were about why they are considering this partnership and what they hope to get from it. I was in favor of the partnership from the beginning but after the Town Hall I am even more excited about what the future holds for NSPR.

I'm in favor of the NSPR / CapRadio partnership however I do have a question.

My understanding is that NPR stations pay for the rights to put national programs like Morning Edition on the air. Under this agreement, will the amount that CapRadio and NSPR pay for these programs change? Will this partnership result in a savings for national programs?

I fully support the proposed collaboration and partnership with Capital Public Radio.

What do you see as the pros and cons of the potential collaboration? I like the programming as it is and too often when these types of changes occur, it is not an improvement but the beginning of deterioration.

When it is safe to resume live broadcasting from Chico, will Evening Jazz still have live hosts? If fundraising is going to be shared by CAP and NSPR, will the programming then reflect the choices of the greater population of the urban area rather than continue to have programming more suited to rural communities?

Thank you very much.

Just close the station. I formerly financially supported NSPR but since communists have declared war on America, I want ALL NPR taxpayer supported programs and stations to be forced to support their programs and staff.

I have listened to CapRadio many times and I think their program selection and schedule of programs is MUCH weaker than NSPR. NSPR has one of the best program line-ups I have heard on ANY public radio station. It is the reason I am a sustaining member. If this changes much I will be very disappointed. Some change is inevitable. NSPR has made plenty of changes in the past, all for the better. I hope we don't lose control of that.

my comment =

I listen to this station every single day all day, setting aside certain times to really 'devote my ears' to certain programs I especially look forward to (e.g. news, WWDTM, and more)

I've read the FAQs, yet came away with only vague ideas about specifics on how much the programming/schedules may change?

I realize this transition must be beneficial to both NPR franchises, so of course I applaud your efforts to make it successful!

As a quarantining elderly person, lurches in rhythms can sometimes seem unwelcome, but believe me, I'm adaptable. Selfishly, though, I'm sure hoping you keep the programs I so look forward to, yep ---

Will the Chico DJs be changing too? I love your local voices, each and all!
Oh anyway, best luck with this deal, and now you have my comment.
I wish you all good health and high hopes,

What is not clear to me is why a Sacramento public radio station wants to take over another Nor Cal station. What is CAP's motivation? What are they trying for? They can give many benign seeming explanations, but I am wary of their true motives. It is not in any way obvious why one public radio station would be subsumed by another. It in no way appears altruistic. Only motives of greed and power seem obvious. These actions are what you see in for profit operations.

I have listened to Cap Radio a number of times, and its programming seems very homogeneous and sounds like canned radio. What assurances is Cap offering that NSPR will retain its unique character and programming? Streamlining sounds to me like erasing the local character in order to institute a more bland uniformity of vision and programming.

As a longtime supporter and former volunteer I think the plan to work to with CAPRadio makes good sense. Combining assets and management should be a benefit to both.

I sent a lengthy email earlier to Mr Wilke with my concerns. I hope they will be added to the narrative in future discussions about the fate of this unique local radio station.
After reading the information about the proposed arrangement, my concerns of local autonomy are even more heightened. I fear the station will turn into a daylong news/talk radio with little relating directly to our local area. There are several locally produced programs that make this station unique to the Northstate which will likely eventually be deemed unnecessary or trivial. For those that want a big city approach to NPR there are many opportunities online to get that content.
From the town hall meeting it appears this comes down to a financial decision. If there is another way to keep this station alive, I would promote looking into it. It will be very sad to lose this radio station!

Hello, I am a loyal long-time listener and financial supporter of NSPR living in Redding. I am concerned when I read that CAP Radio will be managing the programming and NSPR's role will regulatory oversight. My concern is that management by a larger non-local entity (CAP Radio) will eventually result in less local coverage. For example, when the Redding Record Searchlight newspaper was taken over by USA Today, the local news and local feature coverage dropped dramatically, and the timeliness and quality of the newspaper is severely diminished. I fear the same could happen to NSPR....

This proposed operating agreement seems like a win-win. I already occasionally listen to Cap Radio because you prefer their informational programming over our classical music, although I do appreciate Mike Fishkin's presentation.

Will this alliance hopefully provide more talk/information programs to fill/replace the too long hours of music 1 - 3:30 pm on week days? and the same for Saturday afternoon music programs 12 - 3? I think that would be such a boon to KCHO

This is a very bad idea. We will lose our autonomy as the rural North State and become a subset to CapRadio which serves highly populated areas and has much different interests and needs. If you are doing it for the

money, just think of all the small businesses gobbled up by larger corporate entities, and that is just what will happen here.

Either NSPR continues to represent the North State as a separate entity and collaborate with CapRadio programming, or just give over the territory to Jefferson Public Radio, which already serves this rural area. You fought hard to be a separate public radio system apart from JPR, and now you want to sell out to Sacramento?

Is it hard to find people who want to work with NSPR? You have a whole university to draw from, not to mention all the local people with specialties who are also available. I cannot believe it is a lack of resources, but a lack of will to continue providing services under these difficult times. If we can work through this, so can NSPR.

This move does not benefit the listeners or NSPR's contributors. Bigger is not better. Per capita NSPR covers our news pretty darn well considering how large our rural service area is. I have been consulting and studying services of well over 150 special service districts and cities in the North State since 1984, and feel I have a pretty good sense of how local people want to have their services: local and uncomplicated. This move is a gross complication and further isolates public radio audiences from our local news sources.. Again, instead of this bad option, why don't you just contact JPR, who already reports on Northern California (the Cascade system goes all the way down to Colusa County), and work out a deal with them. They also have a university pool to draw from, and already provide services to almost all of our North State area. JPR is the alternate public radio system I use when your transmission signals go out (which has been more frequent lately--without PG&E shutoffs). They cover news down here, too. You fought JPR to become the primary public radio station in the North State, and now you want to put management of we listeners into "foster care" with CapRadio? It takes longer to drive to Sacramento than to Chico. You better do a FEASIBILITY STUDY and publish that widely before you even consider taking such a leap off the readership cliff. MAKE NSPR BETTER, NOT MORE REMOTE.

If your staff wants greater opportunities, let them move to those locations. most of us left those congested, dense areas on purpose. We like KQED's programming, but we don't want them managing NSPR. Why? Because our rural communities will become lost once again in the sea of urban chaos. We will have no voice at all, and our issues won't be of interest to management unless they are catastrophic in nature. Maybe the management team at NSPR just needs a two week vacation to get their heads around what is being proposed. Do a real feasibility study of this and any other proposal, circulate it widely, and let the people decided. This current approach is like deciding to build a dam without any CEQA review at all! Do the study before this goes any further. Your Boards owe it to your subscribers and listeners. It is the ethical approach to deal with this matter. Further, it is the morally responsible step that should have been taken long before posting the proposed agreement between the two stations. It is clear that no one looked at the long-term consequences of this proposal.

I am concerned that we (Chico area) will be getting more Sacramento news than our area news. Is NSPR being "swallowed up" by a larger market area due to costs? When major events, like the Oroville Dam spillway and the Camp Fire happened, NSPR was THE station to listen to. Did CAP have the same coverage? I doubt it...although I wouldn't know for sure. BUT, it surely seems like it is a done deal and you are just going through the motions of getting public input because it is probably required by law. I will still listen as it is the only station on my home and all the car radios. Will just have to see how it goes.

If we merge with Kap radio can we get rid of all the classical music in the afternoons? Blues would be much preferable!!

This sounds like a good idea: keeping existing staff, improving their benefits, adding more programming, OK! That said however, given today's political climate where right-wing-hate-radio monopolizes the airwaves (thank you Bill Clinton for shredding the Fairness Doctrine), the openly stated desire by these same forces to cut NPR's funding until it can be drowned in a crystal radio set, and the recent takeover of the Voice of America, I'm on edge. Intending no disrespect, what are CapRadio's sources of funding?

We appreciate that your focus will remain and be expanded on north-state communities and not become a Sacramento focused station.

The proposed PSOA provides very little representation from NSPR (one person) on the CAP Radio board. Some years back, KCHO made more effort than it does currently to broadcast local events--such as notable music events and speakers at Laxson Auditorium. With the proposed PSOA, it will be even less likely that special local events would pre-empt regular programming dictated by CAP Radio. It's apparent that NSPR is going to be much less nimble under this agreement to respond to local issues and events.

Hope you will not be changing your excellent programming!

The programming at NSPR is far superior to Sacramento. I will be heartbroken if this changed. Always happy returning from Bay Area or Sacramento to hear the programming I value.

Why is there a need for this collaboration?

I'm against partnering with Cap Radio although it will be more efficient and bring in more resources. There is a tendency for the smaller entity to eventually be subsumed into the larger in these situations. KQED, while being an excellent station, is a good example of how the voices of individual PBS/NPR stations can be minimalized by merging with a bigger Station. As a Redding area resident I have misgivings about the relevance of the influence of a metropolitan station that is twice as far away as NSPR.

Proposal looks good as long as NSPR studio keeps functioning in Chico with its current staff. I really appreciate the special local reports and hope that NSPR keeps breaking in with local news and happenings. I would like the addition of some of the programs which Cap radio can provide for us so that maybe we won't have programs repeated. I really enjoy and appreciate all of the talk radio programs.

I just listened to your Town Hall about this collaboration. It looks like the transfer of management to CapRadio is okay in that it will maintain NSPR/KFPR programming decisions and staffing in the Chico area; the changes will be transparent to me as a listener. It also appears "someone" from national NPR suggested this collaboration and that there is a grant from NPR that will fund the completion of this transition; this collaboration will help to keep NSPR/KFPR in a solid financial status. And it will help to relieve the financial burden that CSUC has experienced in keeping the station viable. By the way, love the NSPR website!

Question: I am happy with current programming. However, I may not know what's out there that we don't have here in our coverage area. Will this collaboration allow NSPR to program some NPR shows that are part of CapRadio's programming and that we can't afford now? Would it cost us less to have the same

programming as CapRadio? Such as "Wait, Wait" and "Radio Lab?"
Thanks for this opportunity to give you my thoughts on this collaboration!

I am in favor of this collaboration.

First. I resent being told to stay home as I am supporting critical infrastructure so stop commanding that in your announcement to go with Cap radio. It is offensive to those of us that must work. Although I listen occasionally to Sacramento Cap radio, I am against having this station join them. It sounds like a done deal but had I known earlier I could have saved 50 dollars as I will never support you with another dime if we lose our local autonomy. I will start sending more support to Chico News and Review who are struggling way more than you fat cats. Bite me!

I have listened to NSPR before it was even called that I think. 20 years or so. I listen every morning before work and on the way to work, back when I was "going" to my job! I credit NSPR with helping save my daughter and her husband when the Camp Fire started. They had just bought a house on the Feather River Canyon, having moved back to the area from Seattle. I heard on NSPR that morning, there was a 10 acre fire near Pulga, in the Feather River Canyon. I texted her as I knew she was up getting ready to go to her teaching job in Paradise. I asked, "Where the heck is Pulga? Fire starting." She responded, "It's quite a ways north of here up Hwy 70. No worries." The next thing I heard, was it had grown to 100 acres. I texted again. "Now it's 100 acres." Then I didn't hear back and left for work. While this was going on her husband got up and said he smelled smoke... within minutes they could see flames far in the distance and decided to leave, just to be on the safe side. The next thing I knew, was I got a call at work and they and more family were heading to my place in Chico. They lost everything. Their sister and husband and kids lost everything. But everyone was safe. I consider NSPR and all those voices of people I hear every morning.... family. I hope with this combination with CAP Radio, none of the people are shifted or changed. Personally, I would feel a loss, as many people here who listen would feel. We have had enough loss for a long time. Please don't change a THING about the programing, or the PEOPLE! Now with COVID and working from home, NSPR is the only thing "normal" in my life. Thank you with all my heart.

I was worried about losing the North State reporting and programming that I love from NSPR. You gave excellent answers to the most asked questions that I would have asked. I hope that if you do change your operations that it will make it financially better for you.

What is the impact of the agreement on current NSPR employees? 2) What is the viability of NSPR going forward of the agreement isn't implemented? I am not sure that Nspr needs to partner with cap radio but if this is what is decided I hope the programming will not change and that all employees of Nspr remain employed.

Please post all questions and answers in a single summary document (.PDF format would be great) online within 5 business days of the close of comment period.

I would love a hook up with Capital Public Radio because I so enjoy all the news journalist's reporting. They are awesome which in my opinion, NSPR really lacks, which is why I have preferred CAP PR. Thank you for allowing my input.

Ever listen to a story and think to yourself--wait, there's just gotta be more? Well, that was certainly the case with the spin of the PSOA.

The announcements on NSPR regarding this agreement began by stating that the PSOA (not specifically named; I believe instead the term used "management collaboration" was used) was being explored. But in the few days or so before the town hall meeting, the messaging changed and it was quite clear (and confirmed via answers from Jun in the town hall), that this isn't just being explored, this is going to happen. If that messaging was played differently, was laid out more authentically, I probably would not have even gone on-line to learn more and comment. But the transition in the messaging (from a stance of "maybe" toward a message of what was obviously a predetermined action) was just too transparent to not overlook and go online to make this comment. (And, when I first went online to learn more, nothing was posted on nspr.org. I didn't check daily, but I can say that announcements started and nothing was found online in my search of your web page for at least 5 days of first hearing the announcement. Please don't point me to your website where when I see nothing on the landing page a formal "search" funds no hits on your own site). If we are to trust the content of the news reporting on NSPR, we need faithful, transparent, and accurate information about the station. You do know you have careful listeners in your audience, right? I am guessing that many listeners heard a change in the words used to describe the "plan" as it turned into an "agreement". I'm taking the time to write on behalf of at least 5 listeners that I spoke with regarding this; I am guessing that there are more than just us. Please start sooner in the messaging, and from the start, message accurately. We expect more/better.

That all stated, I do hope that this is a good action for the North State--good luck!

I enjoy all the local programming. Special programming that has covered the Paradise fire and it's aftermath, has been very interesting. I recall a segment from a few years ago about local housing issues. So informative, I felt lucky to find it. The recent coverage of hunger in Paradise was unexpected for me and it was an eye-opener. I wish more people could hear these programs. Lately I've been grateful to be able to listen to cap radios coverage of Governor Newsome's covid 19 updates. I think having direct unfiltered access to what he says is really important. I liked the discussions afterwards by various reporters from around the state. Hope that kind of collaboration continues. I really appreciate public radio. Thank you all for your hard work.

I vote Yes for merger with CapRadio.

Does NSPR and KHSU (Humboldt State University licensee) have a PSOA? If there is an existing relationship, how will that relationship be affected by CapPublicRadio's management?

Comment: I would really like to get a better signal / reception for KFPR and NSPR. I live on the Northwest side of Oregon Mountain in a signal shadow of the communications towers overlooking Weaverville, Trinity County. I have presumed that the Weaverville repeater? 89.5 hz is on that stand of towers. Are the signals I receive actually on Shasta Bally south of Whiskeytown Lake? my best signal comes from JPR out of S.O.U. 89.7 hz, then 88.9, then 89.5 hz. Can anything be done short of my moving? I even get better reception from KFOI 90.9 hz

I am concerned that the proposed Joint Management Agreement between CapRadio and NSPR will result in a loss of focused public radio news coverage in the North State area. We are a distinct geographic region apart from the Sacramento region with distinct needs for local news and coverage as evidenced by the Carr and Camp Fires.

When CapRadio moved into the Northern Nevada market, it resulted in an adverse effect on locally focused

news coverage and significantly harmed the existing Northern Nevada NPR affiliate KUNR. NSPR needs to remain more than a series of retransmitters for CapRadio's broadcasts.

Please ensure the proposed Joint Management Agreement protects the needs of the North State area by specifying local reporting, and separate local news programming, will be maintained in the KCHO and KFPR listening areas.

The proposed agreement should also provide for collaboration in local news and reporting with NPR affiliate Jefferson Public Radio which has a significant presence in Shasta and Siskiyou Counties.

Sounds like a good idea in many ways. The covid reporting half hour was certainly enhanced with Cap Radio support in the beginning. I hope we don't lose the individuality of our NSPR outlook!

I am a long time listener and supporter of NSPR. I understand the concept of efficiencies being gained by the collaboration. I don't know how programming differs between the two geographical areas of operation. I hope that the collaboration will not result in programming that does not suit the north state. Wait and see.

I know that journalism is important but not the only reason I listen to the radio. I've always enjoyed local programming (classical, jazz, blues, arts etc.). Are volunteers unreliable or hard to come by these days? I saw that for the short term local programming would stay but I suspect not for long.

How will underwriting work if managed by CapRadio? Is it only about money or will they look for people and businesses who support our locale? I like that people like Jonathan know the area and can find underwriters I would willingly support in my own community (Chico). I understand this a Chico-centric view and the broadcasting range of KCHO is far wider than that but I really do learn about important community events and activities by listening to the radio.

I have listened to CapRadio on numerous occasions while driving and it is a fine station - just not local. I think that is what I would miss most about the proposed collaboration.

I love the local feel of NSPR (Cultivating Place, Blues People, Up the Road, Nancy's Bookshelf). How much control will Capradio have over our programming? When I listen to Capradio it sounds like they devote much more time to politics than we do. I prefer the NSPR style. Keep up the good work! Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Why now? Curious as to why now regarding timing of this proposed change.

To what extent is funding (or lack thereof for NSPR) driving this proposed agreement? In other words, if this PSOA does not occur, what changes, if any, will be implemented at NSPR to continue to stay on the air? My personal concern is that our "local" public radio station will be steadily replaced by CapRadio and in the end we will hear more of Donna Apidone or Beth Ruyak instead of Sarah Bohanan et al.

I think it's a sensible solution as listeners shift from broadcast to podcast and other delivery platforms, as evidenced by NPR's own story today about their radio listenership dropping by 25% but overall listening increasing by 10%. My own shift in listening habits (KCHO member since roughly 1983) bears that out. I now prefer to stream many of the programs I used to listen to on KCHO/MYNSPR, to listen when I want them. Under those circumstances, I don't see local broadcast radio as sustainable. I do hope there will be some guarantees to ensure North/Far North CA coverage, as our interests will diverge from the Sacramento area.

It has been publicized on air the the public can read the actual collaboration agreement online through July 15. It's not apparent to me where that agreement can be found. Has it been removed from the website already? It's still the 15th.

I would have preferred the ability to read others comments. Your link about this merger will not open. I fear, the decisions have already been made and this is only pro forma regardless of what the greater north state thinks. Like most media mergers, this one likely is being put forward as economies of scale, wider coverage, better programming...fear we will end up with less of our great, local programming, local news, less variety. .. I would hope, if this is such a great idea that KCHO could spin off its classical program and maybe replace the canned BBC with some real local live shows. Best of luck regardless..

I was disappointed at the short shrift Redding received in your presentation. You seem to be wholly ignorant of Shasta County. If CapRadio is to take on the responsibility of serving such a huge geographic area, then SERVE it. You seem to only see a need to keep the transmitter operating and to collect subscriptions and sponsorships. Comparing Redding with Chico:

* Redding population: 91,794; metropolitan statistical area: 180,040; median household income, \$50,320.

* Chico population: 93,293; metropolitan statistical area: 219,186; median household income, \$50,544.

The cities are virtual twins, yet community coverage here is almost non-existent. You complain of only surviving, not thriving, yet I'm unaware of any efforts to truly make Redding a part of your broadcast community. Do you even realize you could double your subscriber/sponsorship base by making a real effort here? Has any effort been made to partner with the McConnell Foundation? Have you considered a KIXE-TV merger or partnership, with an evening newscast? (KPBS in San Diego has had huge success with a combined operation.) Or a Record-Searchlight partnership? You could give your identity a huge boost by partnering with either of those entities. Show Redding you mean business. Establish a newsroom/studio here. Otherwise you're doomed to continue to limp along.

Is the Basic impulse to do this merger of nspr with cap radio.....economic?

Is the same opportunity of asking for opinions...being held for the Sac State folks as the Chico State?

Do they want to do this merger?

Was the idea started by CSU-Chico or Sac State?

Feeling that the two areas are so geographically and culturally different, I hope the identity of our north state.... More relaxed/rural in definitions, will not be ignored/over powered by the more intense/commercial definitions of all that's south of the Sacto Airport.

However, the merger could help to increase a more diverse and keener intellectual opportunity in programming to broaden the north state's awareness and opinion.

Is there an open public discussion tomorrow...on zoom?