

Bond 6259875

LICENSE OR PERMIT BOND

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS, That we, Southwestern Bell Communications Services Inc. dba SBC Long Distance
as Principal, of 5850 W. Las Positas Blvd.
(Street and Number)

Pleasanton California 94588 and the SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
(City) (State)

a WASHINGTON corporation, as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto the North Dakota Public Service Commission, 600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408, Bismark, ND 58505-0480

, as Obligee, in the sum of Twenty Five Thousand and 00/100 ----- Dollars (\$ 25,000.00)

for which sum, well and truly to be paid, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals, and dated this 18th day of February, 2004.

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That WHEREAS, the Principal has been or is about to be granted a license or permit to do business as a Telecommunications Services Provider

by the Obligee.

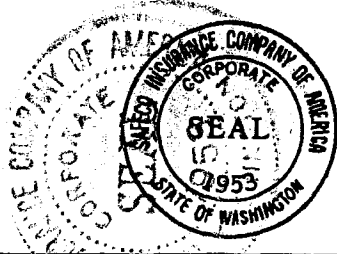
NOW, THEREFORE, if the Principal well and truly comply with applicable local ordinances, and conduct business in conformity therewith, then this obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER:

- 1. This bond shall continue in force:
 - Until _____, _____, or until the date of expiration of any Continuation Certificate executed by the Surety
 - OR
 - Until canceled as herein provided.
- 2. This bond may be canceled by the Surety by the sending of notice in writing to the Obligee, stating when, not less than thirty days thereafter, liability hereunder shall terminate as to subsequent acts or omissions of the Principal.

Southwestern Bell Communications Services Inc.
dba SBC Long Distance

Thomas S. Clemens Principal
Thomas S. Clemens Asst Treasurer



SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
By Ronald J. Walton Attorney-in-Fact



POWER OF ATTORNEY

SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
HOME OFFICE: SAFECO PLAZA
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98185

No. 9672

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS:

That SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, each a Washington corporation, does each hereby appoint

JULIE K. LONG; RONALD J. WALTON; MARK PERSSON; JIM G. MCGUIRE; RICHARD T. SOLT; San Antonio, Texas

its true and lawful attorney(s)-in-fact, with full authority to execute on its behalf fidelity and surety bonds or undertakings and other documents of a similar character issued in the course of its business, and to bind the respective company thereby.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA have each executed and attested these presents

this 4th day of October, 2002

Handwritten signature of Christine Mead

CHRISTINE MEAD, SECRETARY

Handwritten signature of Mike McGavick

MIKE MCGAVICK, PRESIDENT

CERTIFICATE

Extract from the By-Laws of SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and of GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA:

"Article V, Section 13. - FIDELITY AND SURETY BONDS ... the President, any Vice President, the Secretary, and any Assistant Vice President appointed for that purpose by the officer in charge of surety operations, shall each have authority to appoint individuals as attorneys-in-fact or under other appropriate titles with authority to execute on behalf of the company fidelity and surety bonds and other documents of similar character issued by the company in the course of its business...

Extract from a Resolution of the Board of Directors of SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and of GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA adopted July 28, 1970.

"On any certificate executed by the Secretary or an assistant secretary of the Company setting out,

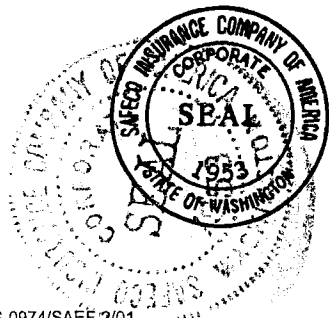
- (i) The provisions of Article V, Section 13 of the By-Laws, and
(ii) A copy of the power-of-attorney appointment, executed pursuant thereto, and
(iii) Certifying that said power-of-attorney appointment is in full force and effect,

the signature of the certifying officer may be by facsimile, and the seal of the Company may be a facsimile thereof."

I, Christine Mead, Secretary of SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and of GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, do hereby certify that the foregoing extracts of the By-Laws and of a Resolution of the Board of Directors of these corporations, and of a Power of Attorney issued pursuant thereto, are true and correct, and that both the By-Laws, the Resolution and the Power of Attorney are still in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the facsimile seal of said corporation

this 18th day of February, 2004



Handwritten signature of Christine Mead

CHRISTINE MEAD, SECRETARY

State of Texas

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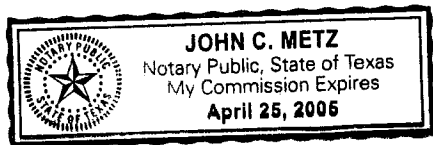
County of Bexar

On **February 18, 2004** before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, residing therein, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared **Ronald J. Walton**

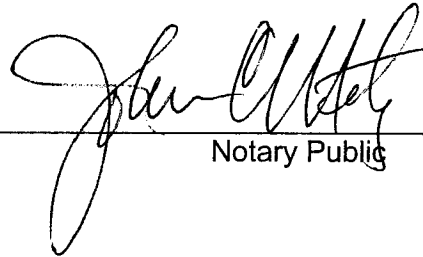
known to me to be Attorney-in-Fact of **SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA**

the corporation described in and that executed the within and forgoing instrument, and known to me to be the person who executed the said instrument in behalf of the said corporation, and she/he duly acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, the day and year stated in this certificate above.



My Commission Expires


Notary Public

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SURETY BOND CUSTOMERS REGARDING
THE TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE ACT OF 2002**

As a surety bond customer of one of the SAFECO insurance companies (SAFECO Insurance Company of America, General Insurance Company of America, First National Insurance Company, American States Insurance Company or American Economy Insurance Company), it is our duty to notify you that the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 extends to "surety insurance". This means that under certain circumstances we may be eligible for reimbursement of certain surety bond losses by the United States government under a formula established by this Act.

Under this formula, the United States government pays 90% of losses caused by certified acts of terrorism that exceed a statutorily established deductible to be paid by the insurance company providing the bond. The Act also establishes a \$100 billion cap for the total of all losses to be paid by all insurers for certified acts of terrorism. Losses on some or all of your bonds may be subject to this cap.

This notice does not modify any of the existing terms and conditions of this bond, the underlying agreement guaranteed by this bond, any statutes governing the terms of this bond or any generally applicable rules of law.

At this time there is no premium change resulting from this Act.