November 11, 2019

Mendocino County Planning and Building Services
860 N. Bush Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as an expression of support for the proposed wireless collocation facility to be built by TeleSpan Communications, LLC on Assessor’s Parcel Number 145-070-01 in the Gualala area. We are a Fire Protection District covering the northwestern portion of Sonoma County. We provide mutual aid response to the southeastern corner of Mendocino County as needed.

Cellular coverage of that portion of Mendocino County and the farthest northwest corner of Sonoma County is weak to non-existent. This presents challenges for First Responders and community residents alike, especially during times of crises such as the recent Public Safety Power Shutdowns and extreme fire danger due to weather and fuel conditions. During the recent events the next-closest tower (the “Moonraker” tower on the south end of The Sea Ranch) did stay functional but was overwhelmed with traffic. An additional tower in the proposed location would provide much better coverage for the Gualala/Anchor Bay area as well as overlap coverage into Sonoma County and north towards Point Arena, providing more bandwidth and more redundancy should other towers fail.

Good cellular access provides another path of communication for emergency response agencies to communicate, as well as keeping residents in touch and better able to receive emergency notifications. We strongly support the addition of this tower.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Plakos
Fire Chief, NSCFPD