

December 4, 2018

Mendocino County

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Planning & Building Services

Mr. Robert Juengling, Chair
Gualala Municipal Advisory Council
PO Box 67
Gualala, CA 95445

Dear Chair Juengling and GMAC Councilmembers:

Unfortunately, I cannot attend Thursday night's GMAC meeting so I hope that you can include the communication with the minutes. I am writing in regards to item #9 on the agenda – a proposal for a wireless telecommunications facility (cell phone tower).

Gualala's location, far beyond the population densities and congestion found elsewhere in our state, is both a blessing and a curse. The blessings include our beautiful natural resources, abundant wildlife, and wide-open spaces. The curses include the resulting remoteness, which translates into challenges in communicating with our neighbors to the south and east and as well as having to travel great distances for health reasons, personal crises, and other emergencies.

Thankfully, technology has enabled us to respond to our geographic limitations via cell phone and internet connectivity. That connectivity however, depends upon cell towers to receive and transmit signals. The Gualala/Sea Ranch corridor has endured inconsistent and unreliable cellular service for many years.

The cell tower proposal item on the agenda at your upcoming meeting promises to dramatically improve the level of cell service on the Mendonoma Coast. Some community members tend to become extremely protective of their immediate surroundings and may oppose the construction of a cell tower in close proximity to their residence, which I fully understand. However, as an advisory council, I hope and trust that you will look beyond individual naysayers, and consider the needs and wants of the entire community. Reliable and effective communication infrastructure is critical these days and offers myriads of benefits to the entire community, including the potential to save lives.

Please support the construction of the telecommunications tower in Gualala!

Thank you for your service!

Eric Ziedrich
President
Gualala Building Supply