

James Feenan - Fwd: public comment U_2019-0011 (Nixon)

From: Mark Cliser
To: James Feenan
Date: 3/16/2020 7:52 AM
Subject: Fwd: public comment U_2019-0011 (Nixon)
Cc: Julia Acker; Caitlin Schafer

Mendocino County

MAR 16 2020

Planning & Building Services

Hi Jim

Please post this to U 2019-0011.

Thanks,

Mark Cliser
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>>> Marilyn Townsend <mtownsown@gmail.com> 3/15/2020 3:37 PM >>>

PLEASE post the following letter under Public Comments for this agenda date, March 19th

To the Planning Commission:

I am writing with regard to the Mendocino Planning Commission's public hearing Thursday March 19 to authorize construction and operation of a Negative Declaration (ND) and a Major Use Permit to AT&T/Epic Wireless LLC for building a 143 ft. wireless communication facility/lattice tower 5.1± miles southeast of the City of Willits.

I believe this application has significant negative safety and environmental impacts on neighbors, plants and animals in the Pine Mt area, which consists of 128 parcels and residences. The whole process for this application has been the opposite of transparent, with nearby landowners having no official notification of such a large and impactful project. I am requesting the planning commission deny the Negative Declaration (ND) and the Major Use Permit to AT&T/Epic Wireless LLC. This project has so many significant environmental impacts that only an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) could address them.

HEALTH SAFETY CONCERNS

The project will degrade human health and the quality of the larger biological environment. As we have no biological and botanical field surveys it is impossible to determine the impact the project will have on flora and fauna. Of even greater concern are health impacts on residents within the 6.2 miles 5G microwave radiation travels, which includes the Willits Charter School population. Staff is aware of public concerns regarding potential health effects due to radio frequency emissions, but does not curtail the height of the lattice tower or the amount of antennae allowed by various entities. Due to co-location there is also a cumulative effect and the health issues once they manifest are irreversible. Due to 23 year old outdated FCC guidelines, the public is not allowed to object to this proliferation based on health reasons.

The FCC is being challenged on many fronts in the courts and legislature. The FCC standards from 1996 are useless, being at least 3 million times higher than levels at which severe biological implications have been observed at the cellular level. There have been no

safety studies done by the industry to prove this 5G technology is safe. The Irregulars, a group of former telecom and FCC insiders, are suing to expose the FCC's manipulation of financial accounting that resulted in wired services to be replaced with wireless infrastructure, including 5G. <http://irregulars.org/irregularsvsfcc/>.

Robert Kennedy, Jr.'s Legal Team Sues FCC over Wireless Health Guidelines: EHT takes historic legal action against the FCC on cell phone and wireless health effects; Liz Barris & Erin Brockovitch are suing the FCC for protection from 5G and T-Mobile West LLC vs. City and County of San Francisco and 58 California counties. The 9th Circuit Appeal vs.FCC is the long-awaited consolidated lawsuit (many cities and counties, as well as telephone & electric companies) are challenging the FCC's recent regulations for streamlining 5G installations - and taking away Cities' decision making abilities. The Santa Fe Alliance for Public Health and Safety filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the constitutionality of laws that are threatening the health and environment. They are also challenging the constitutionality of Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which for the past 23 years has prohibited States and municipalities from regulating cell towers on the basis of health, and has effectively prohibited the public from speaking about health or environment. Senator Feinstein introduced Senate Bill 2012 in the hope that cities could decide how and where 5G is deployed.

FIRE HAZARD

This 143 ft. tower is proposed to be located in a high fire hazard zone. Cal Fire apparently commented on this tower according to the environmental checklist, but it was not listed under agency comments. The local fire department did not comment. This tower, located at the end of a long gravel road in a residential neighborhood, has a 30KW generator and a 190 gallon diesel tank. In 2017 the fire forced many people from Pine Mountain to evacuate. Combined with the seasonal high winds and dry conditions in drought years the situation gets even more dangerous as these mountain roads do not provide enough spaces for cars to pass each other in emergencies; there are no alternate evacuation routes. In addition to wildfire hazards, such towers tend to attract lightning. <http://www.electronicsilentspring.com/primers/cell-towers-cell-phones/cell-tower-fires-collapsing/>

PROPERTY VALUES AND AESTHETICS

It has been shown that property values in proximity to such facilities depreciate by 20%.

<https://ehtrust.org/cell-phone-towers-lower-property-values-documentation-research/>

The project is not in a low density residential area. Poles carrying TELCO fiber to site location are not aesthetically pleasing, neither is the tall lattice tower with antennas and a microwave dish attached. This tower is not "least intrusive". It should not be allowed on a property that is zoned residential. Many neighbors bought their properties for the aesthetic beauty, the quiet atmosphere, and the pristine nature 40 years ago and are not planning to move.

We know this is one of 18 AT&T towers grant funded by the federal government (Connect America Fund/CAF) for "underserved areas" with hi-speed wireless internet of 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload speed costing about \$70 per month. In addition each house would have an antenna attached. For the same amount of money we can have a satellite dish on the roof and internet delivered via Ethernet and be safe.

Mendocino County signed its Precautionary Principle Policy which states: "There is a duty to take anticipatory action to prevent harm." I am requesting the county follow the Precautionary Principle adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June, 27, 2006 (the Precautionary Principle of Science is defined here: <https://mdsafetech.org/featured-page-one/join-mdsafetech-org/>).

As a long time resident of Mendocino County, I implore you not to approve this request. The Negative Declaration and the Major Use Permit are flawed, conditions of approval weak and the mitigations meaningless. The cumulative impact is severe and the process is not transparent. I believe there are better solutions that do not endanger the health and well being of residents.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Townsend