

MAR 16 2020

Planning & Building Services

March 15, 2020

Please post the following letter under Public Comments for the agenda on March 19th.

To the Planning Commission:

I am writing in response to the Mendocino Planning Commission's public hearing on 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 43 ft. wireless communication facility/lattice tower 5.14 miles southeast of Willits.

I believe this application has negative health safety concerns, negative environmental impacts on the neighborhood, including plants and animals in this area of 128 parcels and residences. The landowners in this neighborhood haven't had official notification of this huge impact arriving in their midst. I urge the planning commission to deny the ND and the Major Use Permit. This project crosses so many environmental lines that only Environmental Impact Report (EIR) could address them all.

At present, the rules are such that the guidelines for health issues are 23 years old from the FCC. These rules have no way for the public to talk about the many ways the project will impact human health and degrade the environment. These old rules are obsolete and are currently being challenged in several legal actions. They are likely to be struck down and rewritten using new information about the 5G installations.

The proposed 143 ft. tower is a fire danger in an area already at high risk for fire. Additionally, the tall towers risk being hit by lightning. The dangers are similar to what would happen with a tall pole in the Sherwood Rd. area, dangers that are compounded by not having enough roads available in case of a need to evacuate.

In addition to health impacts, biological damage, and fire risks, towers aren't pretty, so property values go down approximately 20% when there is a tower added to the neighborhood. Most people who live in the area of the proposed tower bought their parcels because they're lovely. That will be gone if a tower goes in.

Mendocino County has a Precautionary Principle Policy which states, "There is a duty to take anticipatory action to prevent harm." This policy was signed into effect on June 27, 2006 by the Board of Supervisors. With this policy in mind as well as all the negative impacts from 5G towers, I urge you to refuse to pass this request for a tower. There are better solutions that don't endanger the health and well-being of residents.

Sincerely, Dina Hutton