

Dear Planning and Building Services Commission Staff,

After receiving the attached letter Friday in our newspaper tube, I am compelled to go on record strongly opposing the proposed cell tower. I am a long-time resident of Pine Mountain.

The author has made several mischaracterizations of the Pine Mountain Community and internet service here. He also comments that this is supported by a Federal program to get service into underserved areas.

Currently there are at least 128 families (plus others that are not part of our mutual water company). This is not a disadvantaged rural community; it is not low income. Most residents have either cell, landline, or satellite phone service. There are several options for internet access including local service repeaters and satellite.

Cell phone access varies, but deficits can be covered by using satellite. Satellite service allows me to participate in zoom meetings, webinars and other educational venues. The service is not expensive for both phone and internet. I am unclear as to how many residents would benefit from this tower; there are vegetative and topographic issues for wireless in our area. (Most residents already use satellite for television services). I am aware, however, of lower income areas in our Willits community that could use more Federal help.

Regarding safety issues, the example of the Redwood fire could be used. Our household received multiple nixle alerts because of our satellite phone service. Others did not because cell service was disrupted (the service disruption was about more than just the tower failures). Sheriff's Deputies personally alerted neighbors to evacuate- insuring our safety. When there is a power outage, residents already need to use power generators or solar power to recharge devices or keep satellite modems running.

If any Federal support could be obtained for our community, I would like to see high speed fiber optic cable, and monies to replace our water company's transite water mains that are over 55 years old and reaching the end of their safety and service life.

I contacted one of the neighbors whose property is directly impacted by the tower and was referred to multiple letters that had been posted as wells as <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=35528>

I agree with the opposition letters posted by my neighbors on Manzanita Dr., who will be in the immediate vicinity of the tower, and confess that the report raised some troubling questions.

I simply do not understand the economics of this project designed to improve the cell service of a subset of residents in an already small middle class rural residential community, and to blanket portions of the valley that are currently covered by other carriers. Our community cannot increase in size. There is no possibility of increased numbers of residences because of severe water limitations caused by earlier failures to observe the CC&R's. I see no increase in safety in the event of fires or other natural catastrophes. It is as though AT&T has willfully neglected servicing our landlines in anticipation of these Federal funds.

Susan Soss

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