

Dear Chairman Haschak and fellow members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I want to voice my concern about the process involved in regards to permits for communication towers in Mendocino County. What is supposed to be a public hearing is not a true public hearing just by giving the public an option to call in or see you via Zoom.

It is time to open these Planning Commission and Board of Supervisor's meetings to the public.

It is time for all Planning Commission staff, Planning Commissioners, Supervisors and legal staff to be aware of and be educated about the issues involved with communication towers. It is especially crucial as due to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) outdated Telecommunications Act of 1996 environmental and health reasons do not count as reasons for denial of a project. Other counties actually have a health department that weighs in when decision affecting people's health are involved.

As the FCC does not protect its citizens big telecom corporations come up with decisions in their corporate offices for our communities without an interest in our communities or an understanding of them. They are given basically free range to do whatever they want to do as long as our county is not questioning them. For example at the May 21 Planning Commission meeting the planner for the project announced that neither 5G, nor microwaves are proposed for the Willits tower at this time. Did he mean to say microwave dish? Aren't microwaves used to emanate from the tower?

What is the long range plan for internet connection in Mendocino County? Is there a County wide long range plan? If not, any further approvals of these communication towers are premature and should not be considered until there is one. Why are the Guidelines not updated?

Why can these companies disregard the guidelines also as far as setback is concerned and come up with false information (Google maps) trying to prove distances from towers to dwellings? The Potter Valley tower got approved even though the setbacks were less than the guidelines call for. The same is true with the Willits tower.

The public did not get to see the photos how the Willits tower would fit into the landscape until after the Friends & Neighbors of Pine Mountain appealed the Planning Commission's decision.

AT&T is building a tower in the Albion area and did not inform the County that they will place 50 poles and stringing cable from these poles for 3 miles in the Coastal Zone to the project site. Citizens had to inform the County and the Coastal Commission. AT&T disregarded the request to stop any additional work outside of the property of the tower and proceeded to connect the setup and actually turned off phone lines for residents temporarily without letting them know. They continued the work knowing that there was a stop order. Citizens had to get the county's enforcement staff to come out and request AT&T to stop and place stop order posters on equipment.

With the Willits tower citizens observed that AT&T was uploading materials 2 days after the 10-20 meeting at the property before the County has come up with mitigations as proposed at the last meeting. The big truck as was discussed in our comments of course was not able to get up the hairpin curve on the curvy road and needed additional small trucks to upload the materials and eventually brought the

material on site without having to undue the guardrails. What if we would have had an emergency right then? There were no flaggers on site.

The list goes on and on. There were many inaccuracies and misstatements in regards to this tower and also with other towers.

Sincerely, Annemarie Weibel
11-3-20