

September 18, 2020

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

As a Resident, Neighbor and Friend of Pine Mountain, I ask the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to oppose the decision of the Mendocino County Planning Commission's approval of Use Permit #U_2019-0011 (Nixon) regarding the 143 foot tall cell tower facility at Manzanita Drive on Pine Mountain Manzanita Drive,

There are many reasons in support of this opposition. This is because of considerations in the areas of EIR, Aesthetics, Safety, Other Broadband Options, which taken together are even more concerning. The detailed considerations are below:

- The project **needs an Environmental Impact Report**. The Negative Declaration did not contain a biological and botanical field survey, which is needed prior to commencement of any activities that may modify vegetation (clearing, mowing or ground breaking).
- Mendocino County's Wireless Guidelines states: "wireless **communications facilities shall be sited and designed to minimize adverse impacts on communities**, vistas and natural resources" and are to be designed to "protect and promote...the aesthetic quality of the county". Sect. C(2)(b) states that "communication facilities should result in a minimal

visual impact for those residents in the immediate area..." This facility would dominate the surrounding tree line and would pose a detriment to the peace, comfort and general welfare of persons residing in the neighborhood.

- The **site is in a very high fire hazard area** with dying Pine trees and an active seismic zone. Electrical equipment and antenna towers attract lightning. Facility site access roads are not adequate to ensure public safety transport in an emergency.
- This communication facility **could have a significant negative effect on property values, and the Mendocino County tax base.**
- Communication plans for Mendocino County must expand use of underground fiber-optic cables, which are already in place in this area. **Other providers already cover most of the county: Verizon and ViaSat and US Cellular function with 4G LTE service on Pine Mountain and other areas.**
- *Mendocino County Guidelines advise that affected communities should be included in decisions such as cell towers in their neighborhoods. The county chose not to involve this community, and proceeded with studying and promoting this project without local neighborhood involvement and input. the* **The County needs to make significant efforts to fully notify neighborhoods BEFORE large and controversial projects such as cell towers move forward in our county, and this needs to happen for this Cell Tower before any decision is made.**

Sincerely,
John Jeavons

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