

October 16, 2020

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Dear Supervisors:

I am **strongly opposed** to the 143-foot tall cell and microwave tower and facility that is planned for Pine Mountain, in Willits. I believe that the tower is not currently needed, and I believe that towers like this will be obsolete within five years. The impact on the community, the land, and the resources of the area is not worth the minimal temporary benefit that the facility might provide before the technology is outdated and not needed. I am genuinely concerned for my family's physical and financial welfare, and for that of friends and neighbors who live in close proximity to the cell tower's proposed location. It is negligent and wasteful for you, our elected officials, to support such a project.

The need for a cell and microwave tower in this area does not exist. Currently, our family uses Viasat satellite and ATT to met all our Internet and phone needs. (Our property is adjacent to the Nixon's property, the proposed cell tower site.) All our technology needs are being met for my family of four with the current services available. My husband and I both teach online classes for Mendocino College synchronously over Zoom and asynchronously using Canvas 4-6 hours a day, my 11 year old son is on Google classroom and Zoom 3-5 hours a day, My 5 year old daughter is on Zoom and streaming videos from Seesaw 1 hour a day, and we run the family business, Our Yoga Center, streaming online classes over Zoom 2-4 hours a day. And at night we all enjoy the fun of streaming Prime, You tube, Netflix and the News. Many times during the day more then one of use is engaging with the outside world using the internet or phone, sometimes all of use are on different devises engaging at once and we have had no difficulties meeting our obligations because of internet or phone capacities. Over the last 6 months, the Internet and phone services have been more then sufficient for us to teach, be students, run a business and enjoy the fun of modern technology. Again, there is no need for a cell tower in this area.

With the above understood, I take issue with spending taxpayers money on unneeded and soon to be out of date technology. The proposed cell tower technology will be obsolete and redundant in fewer than four years because Elon Musk's company SpaceX

Is already in the process of launching over 4,000 of its Starlink satellites to low-Earth orbit, where the mega-constellation will provide high-speed, low-latency Internet to just about any location on Earth. The FCC has given the green light for SpaceX to launch up to 12,000 satellites and paperwork has been filed with an international regulator that could open the door for over 40,000 satellites in total. (<https://www.cnet.com/news/elon-musk-spacex-starlink-satellites-will-have-zero-impact-on-space-finds/>)

Low latency describes a computer network that is optimized to process a very high volume of data messages with minimal delay (latency). These networks are designed to support operations that require near real-time access to rapidly changing data. FCC regulations require it to have at least 2,212 of its satellites up and operational by 2024. (<https://www.cnet.com/news/elon-musk-spacex-starlink-satellites-will-have-zero-impact-on-space-finds/>)

The proposed 143-foot tall cell and microwave tower and facility for Pine Mountain will be out of date and insignificant when this satellite array is in place. AT&T Mobility, Epic Wireless, and our government will have wasted resources, time, and taxpayers' money on unneeded old

technology. What is more, there are currently other viable options for Internet and phone services in our rural area, which services can be boosted or reduced based on independent choice.

I have other concerns, which have yet to be addressed in regards to the cell tower and climate change, fires, earthquakes, and maintenance. How is Pine Mountain's Emergency Plan ingress and egress impacted if tower personnel are responding during a fire emergency since there is only one guaranteed way out of Pine Mountain? Who will be responsible for ensuring the 100' defensible space around the facility and maintaining the overall condition of the vegetation after installation? (#19 Permit conditions of approval). Who is responsible for about weed eating the road by their property, as currently the neither city of Willits nor Mendocino County mows the roads up Pine Mountain? Mowing along the Pine Mountain county road has been left up to individual property owners and there are many including the proposed Nixon property that isn't cleared of dry grasses and dead brush/trees on a regular basis or even on a yearly basis. There has also been a considerable amount of seismic activity on Pine Mountain in the last three months, six or more earthquakes ranging between 2.5- 3.5. I have watch my house shake and my foundation shift, and I am more then concerned about the implications more activity might have on a cell tower were it placed in the proposed location.

Free, independent choice is what brought us back here to Pine Mountain. There are many families with young children and retirees in our neighborhood, and they chose to move here because it is a safe, healthy, natural environment. But their right to choose will be undermined, indeed nullified, if a 143-foot cell tower is erected here. A cell tower will introduce new fire hazards to an already vulnerable area, it will bring down property values, and it will create environmental, visual, and health disruptions for all who live here.

I did not move my family back to the rural land I grew up on because I wanted to stream movies, surf the Internet at high speed, and talk on my cell phone; I could have stayed in the city for that. I did move back to Pine Mountain to enjoy a safe, private, aesthetically pleasing, natural environment in which to raise my family. The 143ft Cell and Microwave Tower and Facility that is planned for Pine Mountain would encroach on these values will have a negative impact on my family.

Please do your elected duty and protect the people you serve by stopping the unneeded 143-foot tall cell and microwave tower and facility that is planned for Pine Mountain. Use our taxpayer money to fix the roads, the schools, and to support mental health issues in this county. Elon Musk is already securing global Internet connectivity and cell phone accessibility with his 40,000 satellites. Please leave our mountain untouched and allow Pine Mountain landowners to choose how much contact they wish to have with technology.

Sincerely,

Eryn Schon-Brunner