

010/16/2020

Mendocino County Board of Supervisor's
501 Low Gap Rd Rm 1010
Ukiah, Ca 95490

Re: Use Permit # U_2019-0011

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter regarding the proposed cell tower for the Pine Mountain Estates. As a lifelong resident of Willits and **RESIDENT OF PINE MOUNTAIN;** I am **STRONGLY IN SUPPORT** of the cell tower/Nixon project located on the Pine Mountain Estate sub-division.

After watching the proposed cell tower/Nixon project Mendocino County Planning Commissions meeting's, the 1st and 3rd district appointee's obvious personal bias, and reviewing the misleading information submitted by the opposition, I felt obligated to write this letter supporting the project for the following reasons.

First and foremost, **PUBLIC SAFETY**, With the recent August Complex Oak fires in the Willits and North Mendocino County area I think we have all seen on the importance of getting real time notifications and/or having the ability to follow the events to take the appropriate actions.

It was not that long ago when people on Pine Mountain and parts of Willits community were evacuated due to the large fire that started in Potter Valley. I know people have short memories, but one of the biggest issues during that event was warning residents of the coming danger.

Federal, State, and local public safety agencies have been working relentlessly to develop the early warning /emergency notification system which relays **PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY NOTIFCATIONS** to the effected people by calling their phones (i.e. landline phone and/or cell phones) and by sending text messages to cell phones. It is no secret the land lines are not well maintained and can take a long time to get repaired leaving us little or no way to receive **PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY NOTIFCATIONS** without this tower. I commend Sheriff Kendall and Little Lake Fire Department Chief Wilkes for supporting the tower for the greater good of the community for PUBLIC SAFETY.

What about people with medical needs or people who need emergency services. How are they supposed to call for help if they are not next to a land line phone?

Second, **EDUCATION**; with two 13-year-old boys having to do their homework and communicate with teachers has been extremely challenging during the cancellation of school during current pandemic. It was recently announced that students **WILL BE REQUIRED** next school year to do online studies and will only be able to attend school on a limited basis. With social distancing and being unable to attend school, participate in sports the only interaction they have with friends is through the internet or by cell phone (i.e. social media, texting, facetime etc.).

Third, **WORK**, like most I have had to work from home by cell phone and by computer. I have tried and researched several systems like hotspots, dish etc. and they can be very costly, and the service is hit and miss. I spent \$1,000.00 on a cell phone booster that gives me some service but is still inconsistent. I do not know how many times I have had to drive into town, or park on the side of the road like many in Pine Mountain residents to send emails or communicate with my customers.

Forth, **LOCATION**, the location for the proposed tower is on a rural property, just outside the Pine Mountain Estate Sub-Division. Looking at pictures submitted to the Board of Supervisors and on Google Earth this tower has very little impact on residences in the area. The one resident who has a direct view of the tower has written letters in support of the tower.

The **PUBLIC SAFETY, EDUCATIONAL, AND WORK** issues I have listed are not only important to me and my family, but to all of us who live in the Pine Mountain Estates. I ask or at least hope the members of the Board of Supervisors to approve the Nixon Project/Cell tower.

I have talked to a lot of people I know in and around the Pine Mountain Estates and I have not talk with anyone who was against the project; quite honestly everyone is excited about the idea of better and cheaper Wi-Fi service.

I was curious who was opposed to the Nixon project, so while downtown, I was able to review the letters submitted for public comment and I got it. It was the professional activist/obstructionist. Some people submitted multiple letters; some people do not even live in Willits. Once again, our Environmental Center was at it again.

As an example of the false or miss leading information the SSopponents submitted coverage maps of cell phone providers and portray this is no reason for the tower. Just because you live in an area showing the providers coverage does not mean you have the services or strong enough signal.

Once again, I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the proposed cell tower on the Nixon property and the urge the prompt approval for its construction.

Sincerely,

Richard "Chris". White

Resident Pine Mountain Estate