

06/01/20

Department of Planning and Building Services Commission Staff
860 N. Bush St
Ukiah, Ca 95490

Re: Case# U_2019-001

Dear Planning & Building Services Commission Staff,

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.

I was astonished and in disbelief while watching the Planning Commission meeting of 05/21/20 by the members actions and on how the meeting was conducted. I honestly felt I was watching a meeting of the local environmental center or an activist group meeting.

It was obvious the Planning Commission Members decision was already made; they failed or refused to consider any of the very real and Important issues and that face all of us in the Pine Mountain community. If the Commission could look past their personal agenda/views and take into consideration the following issues:

First and foremost, **PUBLIC SAFETY**, 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 Wilks 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 12-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've had to drive into town, or park on the side of the road like many Pine Mountain residents to send emails or communicate with my customers.

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 Planning Commission take their responsibility as public servants seriously and sets aside personal views or agendas and rescind your last decision and 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 talked 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 don't even live in Willits. Once again, our Environmental Center was at it again.

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

Sincerely,

Richard C. White

Resident Pine Mountain Estate