

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

As a friend of many Pine Mountain residents I ask you 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.

The project needs an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Negative Declaration (ND) 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). Please deny the Major Use Permit U_2019-0011 (Nixon) and reject its Negative Declaration.

The public hearing about the wireless communication facility (143 ft. tall lattice tower with 12 antennae) approx. 5 miles south of Willits originally scheduled for 2-20-20 was canceled and scheduled for 3-19-20 so that residents who live within 1,100 ft. of the tower could be informed about this project.

Due to Covid the 3-19-20 public hearing was canceled and scheduled for a virtual public hearing on 4-16-20, but was not held due to conflicting information in the agenda. The hearing then got postponed to 5-21-20. By then the commission did receive 137 public comments, 21 in support of the tower and 116 opposed to it. In addition 34 signed petitions were in favor of the project and 175 against it.

All commissioners present (6) voted on 5-21-20 in favor of denying the project and informed staff to come up with an alternate resolution based on their reasons: visual/aesthetics, impact to utilities, and inconsistencies with the County's General Plan and the County's Wireless Guidelines from 2015. See item # 6a <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXvCs7DmZrA>

The next hearing date was 6-4-20. See item # 6a.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgbD24cft0c> By then the commission did receive a total of 186 comments, 50 in support of the tower and 136 opposed to it. One resident tried to analyze how far away people lived who were in favor or against the project and placed letters in people's mailboxes asking them to write to the Planning Commissioners indicating that if they wanted cheaper, faster service and more bandwidth than satellite could offer they should support this tower. AT&T/Epic Wireless based on the resident's evaluation also added their evaluation (without showing their logo or name of person analyzing it). Both tried to indicate that the majority of the people who live very close to the tower wanted it. Both neglected to look at the petitions opposed to the tower to see where these people live. Both neglected to look what distance would be a safe distance especially considering that 5G would effect the many residents in this area even more and would reach 6.2 miles. See analysis submitted by Rain Youngstrom included in the Appellant Presentation (# 15, page 23 of 28) attached to tomorrow's agenda. In addition we can prove that AT&T before the hearing on 5-21 asked their employees to send public comments in favor of the tower to the Planning Commission. (Conflict of interest)! Several Board of Supervisor's district Facebook pages administered by a member of the Mendocino County Broadband Alliance, encouraged residents to send in public comments in favor of the project.

Also in the Appellant Presentation (# 15, page 3 of 28) read # 3. Discrimination against the public regarding the public's ability to have equal access to participation in the Planning Commission meetings as compared with the project applicants and their representatives as well as County staff, which in this case was also a proponent of the project. The idea to have

projects listed under Planning Project Referrals for two months is that these public agencies can have input from the get go instead of in the last minute and list their comments as public comments and submit without a name. In addition to the above mentioned petitions there were additional petitions attached to the agenda under # 16 by people against the tower and also under # 30 by people in support of the tower. Make sure to read the comments submitted under # 54.

As you may know once a tower is in it is easy to add a microwave dish (the dish is in the plans, but we never got any info about how many or what size they would be) and a few RRU's and there is no public hearing requested. Apparently we can not discriminate against 5G. People who know how bad 5G is do not want 5G, but it is now a given that any/every tower, will now get 5G without any further approvals needed. Supporters of the tower do not take into considerations that 4G LTE can easily be converted to 5G. There is much independent, peer reviewed scientific research linking this technology to very dangerous health effects. There has been ZERO safety tests done before rolling out this milliliter RF 5G network! Due to the Federal Communication Commission's outdated Telecommunications Act of 1996 environmental and health reasons do not count as reasons for denial. Most of Europe, Russia and China have already greatly reduced their wireless strengths based on real feedback regarding negative human health effects.

In the final vote on 6-4-20 Commissioner Pernell voted along with the other 3 Commissioners to approve the wireless communication facility in order to guarantee that the decision could be appealed to the Board of Supervisors and also for the conditions of approval and mitigation monitoring and reporting program to be approved. See Appellant Presentation (# 15, page 3 of 28) # 2. The other commissioners got influenced by AT&T, FirstNet, the local fire department, the Western Fire Chief Association, the Sheriff, the Willits School Superintendent and the last minute pleas by residents who wanted this tower in their neighborhood. These towers are not the only way to get high speed internet.

For more information about First Net see <https://thepeoplesinitiative.org/?s=first+Net>

It is unacceptable that AT&T is at times taking a month to fix broken landlines and thereby pressuring people to switch to cell phones, especially in high fire danger zones. The IRREGULATORS, a group of former telecom and FCC insiders, sued the FCC to expose the FCC's manipulation of financial accounting that resulted in wired services to be replaced with wireless infrastructure (including 5G), including their lack of oversight of the telecom industry. The telecoms are being paid for fiber optics and using the money they get for wireless. The FCC stopped all monetary regulations of the telecoms in 2010.

<http://irregulators.org/irregulatorsvsfcc/>

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'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.

There has been a considerable amount of seismic activity on Pine Mountain in the last three months. 18 or more earthquakes ranging from 2.0 to 4.0 magnitude, with multiple aftershocks, have been registered by the USGS with an epicenter on Bear Canyon Road, in Pine Mountain, less than a mile from the proposed facility site. The risk factor seismic activity might have on a cell tower placed in the proposed location, less than a mile from the epicenter of these recent earthquakes, should be evaluated with an EIR. Pine Mountain is very close to an earthquake fault. See

<https://mendovoice.com/2020/10/two-notable-quakes-shake-willits-a-3-5-and-2-8/>

The site is in a very high fire hazard zone with dying Pine and Oak trees. Electrical equipment and antenna towers attract lightning and can catch on fire. A tower in this location is also dangerous as there will be diesel stored on site and the batteries used in the generator are lithium batteries, which can explode.

<http://www.electronicssilentspring.com/primers/cell-towers-cell-phones/cell-tower-fires-collapsing/>

The road to the tower is in places the only road in and out. The road is narrow and there is a hair pin curve in it where the guardrails might have to be removed to facilitate a big truck loaded with a tower or gravel or other equipment to get up the steep road. 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.

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 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. The County's guidelines need to be updated. The Board and all Planning Commissioners and staff should attend a workshop by people knowledgeable about the dangers of these towers. I suggested that to the Planning and Building Director and my suggestion fell on deaf ears.

The County adopted the Precautionary Principle on 6-27-06, but it does not appear that the County abides by it.

<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=1926#:~:text=In%20adopting%20the%20Precautionary%20Principle,a%20wide%20range%20of%20alternatives>

As William J. Ray in his letter pointed out: "Having the right and obligation to protect health is a sacred trust and a legal responsibility. Corporate convenience and profit are secondary considerations. That is to say, conversely, the County of Mendocino is liable for damages if it sustains threats to the health of citizens, animals, plants, and trees within the County purview." No insurance agency will insure our safety.

<http://www.keepcellantennasawayfromoureelkgrovehomes.org/insurance-exemptions-for-harm-from-emf/>

According to Arthur Firstenberg there are now 738 satellites operating in the Starlink constellation. Except for what they can do for us -- connect us faster and faster with billions of people and machines -- everyone pretends that they are not there, that we can continue to punch holes in the air with impunity, burn prodigious amounts of fossil fuels, fill up the stratosphere with black soot, litter the night sky with moving lights, and alter the invisible electric field that connects us with the sun and stars and circulates through our bodies from birth until death.

<https://www.cellphonetaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Emergency-in-the-Heavens.pdf>

If there are no NEPA letters in the Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (WTFs) files, I am insisting that the County write a letter to the applicant, declaring the application incomplete. The project will remain on hold until the NEPA letters show up.

The project needs an EIR. This facility would be harmful visually and aesthetically speaking, as well as would not support "peace, comfort and general welfare" in addition to all the other points I listed above. Please deny the Major Use Permit U_2019-0011 (Nixon) and reject its Negative Declaration (ND).

Sincerely, Annemarie Weibel