



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

<http://www.edcgov.us/DevServices/>

PC 1-22-15
#6
7 pages

PLACERVILLE OFFICE:

2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667

BUILDING

(530) 621-5315 / (530) 622-1708 Fax

blgddept@edcgov.us

PLANNING

(530) 621-5355 / (530) 642-0508 Fax

planning@edcgov.us

LAKE TAHOE OFFICE:

3368 Lake Tahoe Blvd., Suite 302

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

(530) 573-3330

(530) 542-9082 Fax

tahoebuild@edcgov.us

TO: Planning Commission Agenda Item No.: 6

FROM: Mel Pabalinas, Senior Planner

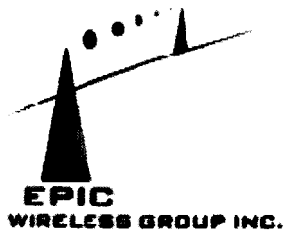
DATE: January 15, 2015

RE: **Special Use Permit S14-0007/Verizon Wireless Telecommunications Facility-
Missouri Flat; Response to School District's Comments**

As referenced in the staff report, attached is a letter from Mother Lode Union School District detailing their concerns on the potential effects from the operation of the proposed wireless facility, and a letter from the applicant in response to the District's comments.

Attachments

Exhibit A.....Epic Wireless Group Response Letter; January 9, 2015 (*attachments: Mother Lode Union School District Comment Letter dated December 18, 2014; and Waterford Consultants Response Letter dated January 9, 2015*)



Gene Bist Sr., President
MLUSD School Board
3783 Forni Rd.
Placerville, CA. 95667

Marcy Guthrie, ED.D.
MLUSD School Board
3783 Forni Rd.
Placerville, CA. 95667

January 9th, 2015

RE: Proposed Verizon Cellular transmission facility 4212 Missouri Flat Rd., Placerville, CA.

Dear Mr. Bist and Ms. Guthrie:

Please see the following response to the questions contained in your letter sent to the attention of Mel Rommel, El Dorado County Planner dated December 18th 2004, in connection with the planned telecommunication project at, 4212 Missouri Flat Rd, Placerville, CA. You will note that the bulk of the responses come from our consultant, Waterford Consulting Engineers (see attached letter), with a response to the final question posed in your letter coming from myself, on behalf of Verizon Wireless.

Question: “How will Verizon indemnify MLUSD in the event of future declining enrollments or civil actions against MLUSD based on founded or unfounded health concerns?”

Response: As Waterford’s “RF Emissions Compliance Report” and statements indicate, Verizon’s proposed facility is well within FCC guidelines for allowable MPE levels and is in compliance with Federal Law. Asking Verizon to indemnify the MLUSD, a party in which Verizon is not bound by any contractual obligation to, is an unreasonable request. Verizon will not indemnify MLUSD, as it would be impossible to correlate a decline in future enrollments with the construction of the proposed telecommunications facility. Furthermore, as a licensed FCC telecommunications provider, Verizon is

8700 Auburn Folsom Rd Suite 400 | Granite Bay, CA 95746 | 916.781.5921 main | 916.781.5927 fax

EXHIBIT A

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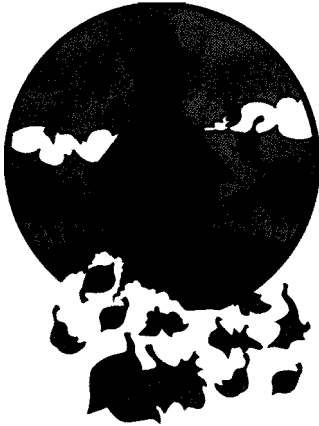
well within their rights to construct the proposed facility as designed, and to operate it within federally mandated operational guidelines and licensing requirements. In addition, the facility has been designed to comply with all El Dorado County design criteria, as outlined in the zoning ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lobaugh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent than the last name "Lobaugh".

Mark Lobaugh
Site Acquisition Manager, Epic Wireless Group, Inc.
(916) 203-4067

Attachments: Letter from Mother Lode Union School District, dated 12/18/14
Response letter from Waterford Consultants, dated 1/9/15



MOTHER LODGE UNION *School District*

3783 Forni Road * Placerville CA 95667 * (530) 622-6464 * Fax (530) 622-6163

Marcy M. Guthrie Ed.D., Superintendent

Board of Trustees

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Rommel (Mel) Pabalinas, Senior Planner
El Dorado County Community Development Agency-Development Services Department
Planning Division
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

December 18, 2014

Dear Mr. Pabalinas,

After reviewing the proposed Verizon Wireless Cell Tower to be installed at 4212 Missouri Flat Road, Placerville, California located within 1,000 feet of Herbert C. Green Middle School and the Mother Lode Union School District Office and Maintenance, Operations and Transportation buildings, the District and Board of Trustees are opposed to the project as there has not been an Environmental Impact Study [i.e., *An environmental review (Initial Study) has been conducted evaluating the potential project impacts on the environment. Based on this review, the County has determined that there are no significant impacts that could not be mitigated and therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared concluding the project would not have significant impacts with application of mitigation measure. An Environmental Impact Report is therefore not necessary.*] and the following unanswered questions:

- What is considered a safe level of Cell Tower based RF exposure to children?
- Is there a cumulative effect of exposure as more towers are approved?
- Is there a cumulative effect considering the existing towers in our area of concern?
- What is the anticipated maximum RF exposure from this tower under consideration?
- Will that level fluctuate or increase over time?
- What is the present base level of RF exposure to our students?
- How will RF exposure be monitored on the school campus?
- Who will be responsible for the cost of that monitoring?
- How will Verizon indemnify MLUSD in the event of future declining enrollments or civil actions against MLUSD based on founded or unfounded health concerns?

The Mission of the Mother Lode Union School District is the successful education of every student.

The District and Trustees believe the health and safety of our students and staff dictates a higher level of scrutiny that there is absolutely no possibility of RF exposure danger to our students and staff. The safety of our students and staff and all future students and staff at MLUSD should dictate that a full Environmental Impact Study is warranted. Perhaps a Cell Tower location at a further distance from the school campus should be given higher consideration.

Professionally.

Gene Bist Sr.

Gene Bist Sr., President
MLUSD School Board

Marcy Guthrie

Marcy Guthrie, Ed.D.
MLUSD Superintendent

CC: MLUSD Trustees
Shiva Frentzen, Supervisor District II
Brian Veerkamp, Supervisor District III

The Mission of the Mother Lode Union School District is the successful education of every student.



WATERFORD
COMPLIANCE... FROM START TO SIGNAL

PO Box 2090
Ashburn, VA 20146-2090

201 Loudoun Street SE, Suite 300
Leesburg, VA 20175

Office 703.596.1022 Fax 540.242.3195
waterfordconsultants.com

Gene Bist Sr., President
MLUSD School Board
3783 Forni Road
Placerville CA 95667
(530) 622-6464

Marcy Guthrie, Ed.D.
MLUSD Superintendent
3783 Forni Road
Placerville CA 95667
(530) 622-6464

January 09, 2015

Dear Mr. Bist and Ms. Guthrie,

The following are the responses to your questions from the Senior Vice-President at Waterford Consultants.

Q- What is considered a safe level of Cell Tower based RF exposure to children?

R- The FCC has published standards as to the amount of energy a human can safely absorb. To this amount of energy, a 10:1 safety factor was added. What this means is that the human body can absorb up to 1.6Watts of power per kilogram of mass. The FCC has set this as the threshold or maximum permissible energy (MPE) and compares on-site energy from the antennas be it measured or calculated, to the standard. Results of either the calculations or the on-site measurements are then compared to the standard and express as a percent (%) of the standard or permissible exposure. Question 4 below, addresses the site specific MPE as calculated using the data provided by Verizon. For this site, the power displacement from the antennas at ground level is 0.3% MPE or less and in accordance with FCC standards and guidelines, this site is considered to be compliant.

Q- Is there a cumulative effect of exposure as more towers are approved?

R- As more towers and/or rooftop sites are added, there is a cumulative effect of the power densities emitted from the communication sites. Typically towers are rarely placed in close proximity to each other so this cumulative impact is rare with additional towers. Where this cumulative effect is of more concern is when multiple carriers co-locate on the same tower or on the same rooftop. With careful design and mounting antennas as high as possible helps mitigate effects on individuals on rooftops.

Q- Is there a cumulative effect considering the existing towers in our area of concern?

R- There could be, depending on how close the towers are to each other and the technology being used. AM and FM radio as well as older paging systems are in a frequency range that we humans are most susceptible to absorbing. The important thing to know is that distance vertically and horizontally help to reduce power densities and that any effects from the antenna power densities being transmitted. Typically, antennas are placed 10 m (33 feet) above ground and as a result pose little to no risk to individuals at the base or surrounding area of the tower.

Q- What is the anticipated maximum RF exposure from this tower under consideration?

R- The maximum calculated MPE (maximum permissible exposure) is 0.3% for persons at ground level and this occurs at 20.4 meters (67 feet) away from the base of the tower. This translates to being 3/1000ths (three-one thousands) of the allowable MPE levels as regulated by the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) and this regulated level by the FCC already has a built in safety factor of 10 to 1. For anyone required to climb the tower, this is another issue especially if they get close to the radiating center of the antennas, but this site will be secured and not accessible to the general public.

Q- Will that level fluctuate or increase over time?

R- Power levels from antennas do fluctuate based on number of users and distance to the tower. The calculations however, take into account the highest power that Verizon is licensed to use. They cannot legally operate at powers above this.

Q- What is the present base level of RF exposure to our students?

R- As addressed above, the highest MPE level for persons at ground level are 0.3% or less, well within Federal regulations.

Q- How will RF exposure be monitored on the school campus?

R- On-going monitoring is not typically done unless changes are made to the tower by either adding or removing antennas. Most carriers do an annual audit of the power densities on their sites, to ensure they are operating within Federal Guidelines and then take any necessary action to remedy any non-compliant conditions. Any changes to the RF output of the facility including Verizon's operating parameters (antenna configuration, power levels, or frequencies of operation) or new carriers collocating on the structure, would trigger an updated evaluation of the facility's EME compliance

Q- Who will be responsible for the cost of that monitoring?

R- The cost of the "monitoring" or annual audits is the responsibility of the tower owner and the licensed carrier operating on the tower. The tower owner is responsible to OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Commission) and the carriers/operators to the FCC.

Respectfully,

Ian Maxwell
Sr. VP at Waterford Consultants, LLC