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Division
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Cc: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors : Ron Mikulaco, Shiva Frentzen, Brian Veerkamp,
Michael Ranalli, Sue Novasel
Mountain Democrat, Editor: Mike Raffety

Mission Statement

The mission of the Development Services Department is to: Guide land use and development consistent with the General Plan, Building Codes and related regulations, by providing accurate, timely and courteous professional and technical services to our customers, to maintain the County's unique quality of life, protect public safety and the environment and to promote economic vitality for current and future generations.

January 13, 2015

Dear Mr. Pabalinas,

After reviewing the proposed Verizon Wireless Cell Tower installation, 4212 Missouri Flat Road, Placerville, California, we are adamantly and heart-felt opposed to the installation of a cell tower at this address which is located within 1000 feet of our home of 42 years for the reasons outlined below:

1. There has not been an Environmental Impact study that **adequately addresses** the health issues related to RF exposure.
 - a. "Astoundingly, the federal government does not allow rejection of a cell phone tower based on health risks, according to a 2005 article. (The 1996 Telecommunications Act (TCA). A Google search found no evidence that this situation has changed. Over 1.9 million cell phone towers and antennae have been approved nationwide without federal studies to assure safety of those living nearby." 1 ***The federal government report is now 18 years old. The 1996 Telecom Act forces community members to search for reasons other than health-related issues until cell tower placements can be better regulated so that residences and others can be protected from apparent health risks.***
 - b. Numerous studies in the last ten years in countries around the world, indicate there are apparent health risks for people and animals living near TV, FM and cell phone towers:
 - i. Australia
 - ii. New Zealand
 - iii. Germany
 - iv. Austria
 - v. Israel
 - vi. Brazil

How can we not consider and understand other countries' research in the decision-making process regarding current cell tower applications and their locations?

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- c. "The International Association for Research on Cancer (IARC), based upon findings from research conducted by an international think tank, came to the conclusion that radio frequency radiation including radiation spewing from cell towers is a "possible carcinogen"."² IARC noted that current evidence was inadequate to draw a firm conclusion about the risk. ***The jury is still out on health risks.***
 - d. There are other health dangers other than cancer that have been associated with EMFs and cell phone antennae: (e.g., genetic mutations, memory disruptions, hindered learning, ADD, insomnia, brain disorders...)

Because cell phone technology is so new and evolving so rapidly, reliable data on health consequences of 10, 20, or 30 years of exposure to the type of energy used in cell towers is unavailable.
2. There is no indication in the Verizon proposal that they have considered **less intrusive locations** away from surrounding properties; included in this proposal: **Herbert Green Middle School, Gold Country Senior Citizens housing, doctor offices and health care centers, as well as, a drug store located in the nearby surrounding area.** *This is strictly a money deal - the land owners' pocket money renting their land to Verizon for the cell tower location on their property. No concern for surrounding people's quality of life, land values, and long-term ramifications, yet to be measured, appear to be a concern for the land owner.*
 3. There is no indication in the Verizon proposal that they have considered or have yet to determine the impact of the proposed tower on surrounding **area home values.**
 4. The Verizon Engineering Statement confirming compliance in the **RF Emissions Compliance Report:**
 - a. does not clearly present the reported data so that a lay person has the opportunity to be informed and understand the data upon which the proposal is based,
 - b. does not include reference tables that are clearly presented so that a lay person has the opportunity to be clearly informed,
 - c. the informational data presented by Verizon is without reference to independent validation,
 - d. does not indicate what is the anticipated maximum RF exposure from this tower,
 - e. does not indicate how RF exposure will be monitored in the surrounding groups of people affected by the RF exposure,
 - f. does not indicate who will be responsible for the cost of ongoing monitoring, and
 - g. does not indicate how Verizon will indemnify John and Carol Nordquist in the event of future health concerns related to RF exposure.

Recommendations:

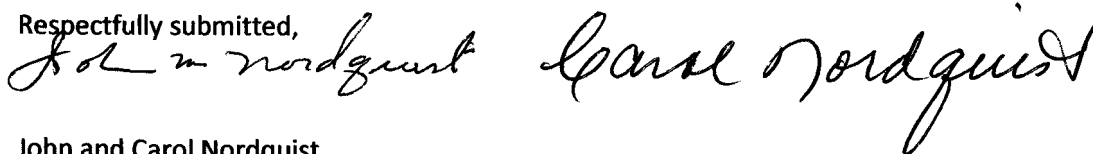
Table the proposal until the County of El Dorado Planning Commission has the opportunity to adequately study and gain background knowledge regarding cell tower issues. An internet search indicates there are a number of cell tower application proposals that have been denied for a variety of reasons within many states in the United States. Has the County of El Dorado Planning Commission conducted their own independent study of issues surrounding the placement and ongoing issues related to cell towers?

We respectfully recommend:

1. The Commission conducts an independent study regarding potential health risks. Do not use the 18 year old 1999 Telecommunication Act as their sole reason to approve or disapprove the Version proposal.
2. The Commission develops tough new cell tower regulations by retaining a cellular communications expert to prove "need" and evidence that "alternatives" have been explored in requesting cell tower placement/antennae sites in El Dorado County. Include in the regulations requiring the applicant to determine potential impact on local home values if cellular equipment is placed in a particular location.
3. The Commission considers less intrusive locations away from residential properties, schools, businesses, Senior Citizens housing, doctors' office, and surgery centers.
4. The Commission explores and determines the impact of the proposed tower locations on area home values. We do not find any reference to these undeniable criteria that needs to be considered in their decisions.
5. The El Dorado Community Development Agency – Development Services Division and the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors retain the services of a cellular communications expert to provide impartial evidence, research and testimony in cell tower/antennae hearings that come before the Commission.
6. The Commission discloses the findings and recommendations of any study the Commission conducts to all of the impacted groups mentioned above with a scheduled meeting to disseminate the findings and recommendations.

This is, and will not be, the last El Dorado county residents who are concerned about the County of El Dorado Planning Commission decisions regarding the placement of cell towers and their decisions whether to accept or reject the placement of cell towers based on the protection and rights of county citizens. It's time to accept your responsibilities and aggressively become knowledgeable concerning the best outcomes for El Dorado county citizens regarding the ongoing issues of cell towers and their locations within our county.

Respectfully submitted,



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1. Dangers of Living near Cell Phone Tower Raised, "La Mesa Council holds hearing Nov. 5 on proposal to erect cell phone tower in Lake Murray area", <http://eastcounty.com/magazine.org/cell-phone-towers>, November 2008.
2. Burrell, Lloyd, Natural News, June 24, 2014. INFOWARS.COM.