

PC 10/22/15
#2

OCT. 5, 2015

El Dorado County Planning Commission
Community Development Agency
Development Services Division
Planning Services
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Special Use Permit S15-0008/Verizon Cellular Tower in Grizzly Flats

Dear Planning Commission Members:

I have been a resident of the community of Grizzly Flats for 11 years, and am writing in support of the approval of Special Use Permit S15-0008 for the installation of a Verizon Wireless Communication Facility Monopole at 5821 Eagle Hill Road (APN 041-011-30), Grizzly Flats, CA.

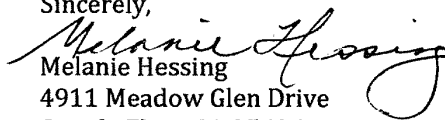
Grizzly Flats has no community cell phone tower service. As a result, reporting of public safety emergencies is oft-times delayed when accidents, wildland fires and other critical situations requiring emergency services occur. When such incidents are seen by passersby, they must search out a nearby homeowner willing to let them use that homeowner's landline in order to call 911. You are keenly aware that in a matter of minutes, a small roadside fire can become a full blown wildland disaster; and that a matter of minutes can make the difference between life and death at an accident scene and other medical emergencies.

Currently, public safety personnel working within the Grizzly Flats area cannot use their department-issued cell phones; and I've learned that radio coverage for the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office (EDSO), California Highway Patrol (CHP), CALFIRE, Pioneer Fire Protection District, et al., is sporadic and therefore unreliable within our community. Having cell coverage within the Grizzly Flats area would no doubt be welcomed by the above agencies, affording them opportunities to provide a greater level of public safety through the provision of critical emergency services that are otherwise readily available throughout other parts of El Dorado County.

It is widely known that the current AT&T landline phone system in Grizzly Flats is failing. An AT&T technician told us during a repair call to our home that they no longer maintain the system although they do come out for repairs when requested. Several members of our community, my husband and me included, lose landline phone service due to water getting into our phone equipment during rain and snowstorms. In addition, past AT&T back-up generator failures have resulted in us and other members of our community having no telephone communications at all during power outages. This public safety issue is a matter of grave concern to us and our neighbors.

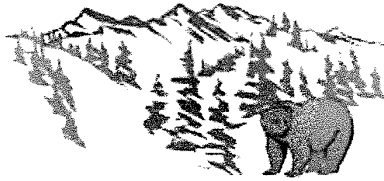
Thank you in advance for considering my comments during your deliberation process.

Sincerely,


Melanie Hessing
4911 Meadow Glen Drive
Grizzly Flats, CA 95636-0009
(530) 626-0166

15 OCT -7 AM 11:25
RECEIVED
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

15-1146 Public Comment
PC Rcvd 10-07-15



Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council

P.O. Box 152, Grizzly Flats, CA 95636

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Mark Almer, Chairman
Ernie Lory, 1st Vice Chair
Kathie Hawkins, 2nd Vice Chair
Vacant, Secretary
Steve Hupner, Treasurer

October 3, 2015

El Dorado County Planning Commission
County of El Dorado Community Development Agency
Development Services Division-Planning Services
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

RECEIVED
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
OCT - 7 AM 11:25

Re: Special Use Permit S15-0008/Verizon Wireless Communication Facility, Grizzly Flats

Dear Planning Commission:

On behalf of the entire Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council, I am writing to support the approval of Special Use Permit S15-0008 for the installation of a Verizon Wireless Communication Facility Monopole at 5821 Eagle Hill Road (APN 041-011-30), Grizzly Flats, CA.

The community of Grizzly Flats and surrounding area does not have any cellular phone service. Without cellular service, the reporting of public safety emergencies is seriously delayed when someone (such as a motorist seeing a wildfire) has to find a resident at home to use their landline. The installation of a cellular antenna will provide the entire subdivision with reliable cellular service and, in turn, significantly enhance public safety.

In addition to residents having access to cellular phone service, public safety personnel working within the Grizzly Flats area will also have use of their department-issued cell phones – therefore enhancing their own safety and productivity. Currently, the El Dorado County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol and Fire Departments' (Pioneer Fire Protection District, CAL FIRE, etc.) radio coverage is very spotty within our community. Having a secondary communication system for our first responders to use would be extremely beneficial – not only for their productivity, but also for their safety. Both the El Dorado County Sheriff and California Highway Patrol's vehicles use the Verizon network for their Mobile Data Terminals (how they are dispatched to calls and receive additional information that sometimes cannot be transmitted over their radios) and Automatic Vehicle Locators. Having cellular coverage within the Grizzly Flats area would greatly benefit both their departments.

Finally, the landline telephone system infrastructure that is owned and maintained by AT&T is failing. Each winter when it rains or snows, many people within our community lose telephone service due to water intrusion into their equipment. There have been at least two documented cases when Grizzly Flats residents have not been able to call for emergency medical services due to the failure of the landline telephone services.

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On November 7, 2012, AT&T petitioned the FCC to start the abandonment of their Legacy Transmission Platform (traditional copper landline) to Internet Protocol (high speed fiber). During this lengthy transition (rural communities will be the last to be served), having a reliable cellular telephone alternative is critical for public safety.

In summary, the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council urges the El Dorado County Planning Commission to approve Special Use Permit S15-0008 allowing the installation of the Verizon Wireless Communication Facility located at 5821 Eagle Hill Road in Grizzly Flats in order to significantly improve public safety within the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 622-3774.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Almer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark R. Almer
Chairman