

(Distrubuted at hearing) PC 8-23-18 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES 2 page

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TO:

Planning Commission

Agenda of:

August 23, 2018

FROM:

Isaac Wolf, Assistant Planner

Item No.:

DATE:

August 22, 2018

RE:

Conditional Use Permit S18-0007/AT&T Short Place; Public Comments Received

Staff has received a public comment with multiple concerns regarding the project. This memo is to address the concerns presented by this comment.

Topic 1: Radiofrequency Health Effects:

Public Comment: Issues with "Health concerns... high rates of cancer linked to these."

1. The Federal Communications Commission Telecommunication Act of 1996 states that, "No State or local government or instrumentality thereof may regulate the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions (Exhibit I of Staff Report) to the extent that such facilities comply with the Commission's regulations concerning such emissions." Radio Frequency reports submitted by the applicant demonstrate that the RF emissions for these facilities are below maximum federal standards.

Topic 2: Decreased Property Value:

Public Comment: Issues with "Decreased property value in an area already taken a hit by the King Fire."

2. The County does not interfere in the sale, lease or finance of private property. However, this project is funded by the Connect America Fund (CAF II), a federal program in order to expand broadband service into rural America. The project is entirely on private property, and the property owner has consented to the tower being on his property.

Topic 3: Aesthetics:

Public Comment: The project is "Aesthetically unappealing especially in a place that was ravaged by fire where there are no trees to block its view. "

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3. The property will be located on a flat surface to blend in with other trees in the area. The project has been designed to be about the same height as the surrounding trees on the property. Moreover, the cell tower will be a monopine; therefore, it has been designed to blend in with surrounding trees on site. No trees will be removed as a result of this project.

Topic 4: Presence of Heavy Equipment on Rural Roads:

Public Comment: The site has "5 miles of road to get to this location with heavy equipment coming in to build and then maintain this tower it will have a huge effect on an already taxed road."

4. The project has been conditioned to not allow heavy equipment on the property, aside from the construction phase of the property. In addition, a maintenance technician will come to the property approximately once per month for routine maintenance. Condition of Approval #13 states that "Any routine maintenance that requires running the generators or automatic recycling of the generator shall be performed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday." The applicant and AT&T have agreed to remove all heavy equipment from the property once the monopine has been constructed, and to only schedule maintenance during this time period.