From: Melinda McComb
To: Atkinson, Rebecca; Architectural Review Board
Subject: ARB March 15, 2018: Verizon cell nodes requests- Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 10:16:13 AM

March 14, 2018

Dear City of Palo Alto Architectural Review Commissioners and City Staff;

I am writing to you in opposition to Verizon's request for 11 additional nodes on it's small cell network in Palo Alto. In addition to a lack of proof regarding a gap in coverage, I very much object to the placement of these small cells near and in residential areas for health, safety and security reasons.Although I would love to attend the March 15, 2018 ARB meeting to speak in person, it is at 8:30 am, and attending would be difficult as I live in Soquel.

I travel to Palo Alto once a week to spend a day with my daughter's family and my two grandsons, and have been doing so for about 5 years now. They live in the residential area adjacent to Addison School, and we regularly walk with the children to the park by the police station, Whole Foods, and the newer small cell project areas. Around March-April of 2017 I got really sick after spending a day walking around town with the children to the frozen yogurt shop at University and Hamilton and then to the children's playground by the police station. I object to the green mailbox power sources being put right in the middle of the sidewalk and near bus stops where people sit and wait. I felt like I was in a stupor by the time I returned to Soquel that night, and within a day broke out in a rash all over my back, and the rash had a really strange patterning. The rash lasted a month, the stupor about 3 days before I could do anything productive. The EMF levels in my daughter's home and yard areas have altered drastically over the past year. They are techies and have all kinds of wireless devices all operating at once, so I used to do better taking the children outside the house. Over the past year I have felt better being inside the house, even with all the wireless devices, than I do outside and pretty much have to avoid walking downtown with the children. I don't need to use a meter because I can feel it in my body and although this is being called electromagnetic sensitivity, I consider it more like electromagnetic consciousness. I am totally unable to sleep in these high frequency environments, as many others are finding, and putting a small cell transmitting in the gigahertz range near where people sleep, typically at under 10 hertz, is absolutely ridiculous and a total failure to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

Five years ago, Palo Alto was livable for EMF sensitive/conscious persons with a little effort because the smart meters are not on all the homes as they are in most other cities. It was a haven for people who were particularly sensitive to smart meter frequencies. Then the airplanes started flying lower and lower over the residential areas with that powerful transponder radar that goes right through you to your bones. And now all the small cells over the past year have made the situation much worse. My grandchildren have chronic colds and earaches, and we go to play groups and classes and I regularly see the other children in Palo Alto too. The children are not OK in Palo Alto. In a separate incident in Palo Alto, only about 2-3 months ago (yes, I really should write it down) I came to a stop light somewhere around Sandhill x El Camino and was just overwhelmed with a truly immediate & intense EMF blast of something on my skin and started looking around the light posts and building roofs for antennas, and realized I was stopped right next to one of those new green boxes with small cell nearby. This is affecting me as a visitor to Palo Alto. Sometimes I get vertigo from sitting on the ground near the now ubiquitous wireless irrigation systems, usually in a park in Palo Alto.

It used to take me 1 day to recover from a day in Palo Alto, now it takes 3 days to recover. This is because the EMF levels have increased so dramatically in Palo Alto in such a short period of time.

I also object in that I believe it is a violation of air rights on private real estate to allow this constant microwave intrusion creating a loss of security and quiet enjoyment inside homes and even data collection by third parties without consent. This isn't just about consumer demand, it is about really big business plans for driverless cars, virtual reality, IoT's, and about military plans to build-out an active denial system on the public right-of-ways across the USA. The entire 5G expansion has been planned to use other people's real estate to create. I see no reason why anyone should expect to pay less than fair market value by accepting a fixed amount determined by the federal government. Real estate in Palo Alto is worth quite a bit more than real estate in rural areas, and the companies should pay the going rate and not expect a subsidy. This type of dependency on wireless has been proven to be unreliable in emergencies (Napa lost cell service for 2 days due to recent fires), and security experts from the NSA are objecting to the 5G expansion citing serious security concerns.

I strongly object to the placement of small cell towers in areas zoned residential and in the public right-of-way where children will be constantly exposed. I object to the lack of security, privacy, and quiet enjoyment this intrusion into our homes and neighborhoods is creating. I object to not being able to sleep so that other people can stream pornography (30% of Internet traffic is porn, much illegal because of age and lack of consent) and play violent video games- hardly anyone's definition of a public utility. I don't personally believe that any criminal activity can be considered a public utility warranting a place on Main Street. Society is suffering from technology that was promised to assist us. Verizon has provided no proof of a lack in coverage, and as such should be denied.

Sincrely,

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