From:	Architectural Review Board
To:	Lew, Alex; Osma Thompson (osma.thompson@gmail.com); Baltay, Peter; Gooyer, Robert; Furth, Wynne
Cc:	Atkinson, Rebecca; French, Amy
Subject:	FW: Oppose Cell Phone Transmitters
Date:	Monday, May 21, 2018 9:41:39 AM

From: Debbie Mytels [mailto:dmytels@batnet.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 20, 2018 8:51 AM
To: Council, City
Cc: Kniss, Liz (external); Scharff, Greg; Cory Wolbach; Tom Dubois; Filseth, Eric (external); Greg Tanaka; Holman, Karen (external); Lydia Kou; Adrian Fine; Clerk, City; Architectural Review Board; Christopher Linn
Subject: Oppose Cell Phone Transmitters

Re: Appeal of Verizon proposed permit for cell equipment at 2802 Louis Road'

Dear Councilmembers,

I live at 2824 Louis Road, and one of the proposed Verizon transmitters would be placed outside my bedroom window.

However, this issue is not just about individual homes in South Palo Alto. This issue affects our whole community — and we appreciate the Council taking time to hear these appeals. Others have made significant comments about how these transmitters are ugly mechanical intrusions into our green neighborhoods, as well as the potential for injuries and broken roofs if an earthquake were to send this top-heavy equipment collapsing onto our homes.

One of the other important concerns — **that affects our whole community** — is that using our City's network of utility poles to hold these transmitters will likely preclude further work in undergrounding our utility lines. These ugly and decrepit wires strung across our streets are vulnerable to being knocked down by tree branches in a windstorm, knocking out our electricity and causing fires. While part of the town now has these wires underground, putting the Verizon transmitters atop poles will make it all the more expensive to make improvements that will benefit the whole community.

As a multi-billion dollar company, **Verizon certainly has the resources** to do the right thing by Palo Alto and install its equipment underground, as it has done in other communities. We should not let them get away with treating Palo Alto on the cheap. Moreover, as usual, what happens in Palo Alto can set the standard for other communities. The Council can require that Verizon create a quiet and aesthetically desirable alternative to noisy and ugly pole-topped transmitters. Requiring innovation in their design would ultimately benefit other communities — and Palo Alto (and Verizon) would be seen as leaders.

Our neighborhoods do not need to be destroyed in order for Verizon to improve its 5G capacity so that its customers can watch video movies on their cell phones. Not only does Verizon have **plans to install over 150 such transmitters** throughout Palo Alto — but **other cell phone companies will want to follow suit** so that they too will have the capacity for their subscribers to watch 5G quality movies on their cell phones while driving around.

Verizon should also make sure that its batteries and fans do not exceed noise levels permitted by Palo Alto's noise ordinances. Once these transmitters are installed, the company can

increase their size and capacity, just as long as they don't exceed Federal standards. Increasing the battery size, for example, can increase noise levels. Who wants to live next to a noisy transmitter? Noise, along with the unsightliness, will adversely affect property values of adjacent homes — **will the City Council allow the value of our homes be "taken" by a decision to install this commercial equipment?**

In short, **I join with the appelants, including my next door neighbors, Christopher Linn and Tricia Kellison,** in asking you to **deny the Verizon permit for 2802 Louis Road, and all the other 11 sites in South Palo Alto.**

Thank you for your attention to this important concern.

Sincerely,

Debbie Mytels

Debbie Mytels
2824 Louis Road. Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 856-7580
dmytels@batnet.com
"Remembering the Future in our Actions Every Day"