

## Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

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**From:** Allen, Michael (COB)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2010 11:39 AM  
**To:** Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole  
**Subject:** FW: cell towers

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**From:** Phillip Kyle [mailto:rell1@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2010 10:55 AM  
**To:** Allen, Michael (COB); Supervisor Carbajal; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni; Centeno, Joseph  
**Subject:** cell towers

**Michael Allen** - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board  
**Salud Carbajal** - Supervisor 1st District  
**Janet Wolf**, Vice Chair - 2nd District  
**Doreen Farr** - 3rd District  
**Joni Gray** - 4th District  
**Joseph Centeno**, Chair 5th District

March 11, 2010

Dear Mr. Allen and Supervisors,

I am one of many residents totally opposed to the NEXTG applications.

I am requesting the Board of Supervisors to uphold the Appeals currently filed for several of the currently permitted sites. I also request that, no other antenna sites be permitted in Santa Barbara County until the citizens of Santa Barbara have the opportunity for a full public review of any and all potential antenna site as a full-scope of work project.

Currently, the County Ordinance allows cell antenna installations next to homes and schools **without any neighborhood oversight or control**. Indeed, some antennas have already been installed within Public Utility Easements on homeowners' properties **with no notification to the homeowner and without their consent**.

### **Reasons for opposing NEXTG's applications:**

#### **1. Aesthetics:**

In a semi-rural community that has rejected street-lamps and sidewalks, antennas and metal boxes on the side of utility poles will be an eye-sore and a visual blight. The appearance of Montecito is tightly controlled by its residents who even go as far as to fund its simple, wooden street signs in keeping with its fiercely protected rural nature. It is highly likely that other companies could come and ask NextG for co-location on these poles which means the visual blight could grow considerably worse.

#### **2. Under grounding of utilities:**

Furthermore, approval of pole mounted infrastructure will severely frustrate our continuing community efforts to achieve under grounding of all utilities. Montecito Association and Montecito Planning Commission has long term goals to underground electric utilities for aesthetic, safety and electrical reliability reasons. The County should be supporting the under grounding of electric utilities rather than approving projects that will empower other commercial interests to oppose our community goal. This piggy-backing on the overhead electric poles and wires will frustrate, delay and make under grounding in Montecito more costly and harder to achieve.

#### **3. No coverage gap:**

The public is already well served for cell phone coverage in Montecito. Cell phone service is provided by at least 3 other carriers in this area and unless NextG can document the need for additional wireless services, their

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applications should be denied. We neither need nor want blanket coverage which is what we would be getting if these antennas were approved. It should be noted that other jurisdictions have denied wireless facility applications based on failure to demonstrate a significant gap in coverage.

#### 4. Detrimental to property values:

Installations are proposed in very close proximity to two story homes and will loom over gardens and second floor bedrooms. Because people are becoming more aware of the health risks involved in living near to these RF emitting antennas, potential house buyers will not be willing to live in close proximity to an antenna. **This will result in substantial property devaluation.** In Europe it is now estimated that living close to an antenna can knock between 15% and 25% off the value of a home. **At the Montecito Association meeting held on Tuesday, November 10, a local Resident stood up to say, his house fell out of escrow specifically due to its close proximity to one of the proposed cell antennas! He said the buyers decided not to buy his home due to their concerns regarding the proposed cell antenna! This greatly concerns all home owners and our home values! We do not want Next G diminishing our equity for their gain!**

#### 5. Cumulative analysis of this project is lacking:

It is a circumvention of our community planning process to treat the NextG applications as 39 individual applications that have no relationship to each other. They are clearly part of one overall project and as such a complete cumulative project description and with supporting maps, graphics and description of each application is needed and the cumulative impacts of the system-wide project should be assessed before further application processing is conducted. There is no cumulative visual analysis for the installation - there will be many miles of overhead fiber optic cable that will be strung under the electric distribution wires.

#### 6. The applications and supporting documentation are inconsistent and contradictory:

The report provides calculations for only one carrier (multiple carriers and antennas are possible according to the applications) the RF estimates are for one story rather than two story residences and buildings whereas the higher RF levels will be at two story height and the report fails to show maximum levels. The County should request RF emissions information and not just compliance evaluations. The administrative record should be complete and accurate.

#### 7. Structural integrity of poles is questionable:

The poles proposed for many of the installations are riddled with woodpecker holes and will be inadequate for any long-term infrastructure needs. NextG should provide information documenting the suitability and structural integrity of each pole and indicate which poles are likely to require replacement in the foreseeable future. These poles are located beside recreational trails (San Leandro Lane) and directly opposite schools, playgrounds and parks used for children (San Ysidro Road and San Leandro).

#### 8. Health Issues:

Despite the stealth way the cell phone companies managed to get a bill passed in 1996 (before most people had cell phones), (the Telecommunications Act of 1996), which does not allow opposition of their cell antennas and towers due to health concerns, I personally know of several people who have gotten cancer due to the use of their cell phone. The data that the FCC is using to set its standards is outdated (1985). The FCC set a limit for thermal effects. They deferred the setting of biological limits (non-thermal) to the nations health agencies (EPA, FDA, OSHA, etc.). This sounds appropriate, but at the same time they cut the funding of research into these health effects to zero. They also made the local governments responsible for making sure the wireless companies comply with the FCC limits (in the past the FCC would check for compliance). **Most local governments don't know that they are responsible for this.** I beseech the Board to act NOW, before it is too late. Please vote to deny NextG's permits and their appeal on March 16th, 2010.

**We in Sant Barbara are relying on our Government Officials to make sure that outside companies cannot take control of our community, put our citizens at risk and reduce our property values for their personal gain!**

With kind regards,

Amelia Carleton  
173 Santa Isabel Lane  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

March 11, 2010

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to express my extreme concern about NextG's plan to install wireless cellular antennas next to our homes and schools throughout Santa Barbara County.

**These cell antennas represent a real and significant threat to our communities on multiple fronts, aesthetics, property values, and health being but three of the most important.**

Currently, the County Ordinance allows cell antenna installations next to homes and schools without any neighborhood oversight or control. Indeed, **some antennas have already been installed within Public Utility Easements on homeowners' properties with no notification to the homeowner and without their consent.** Because these antennas and related equipment represent a visual blight and raise serious health concerns, it has been conclusively shown that the presence of a cell antenna on or near a property can reduce that property's value by 15% or more. Thus, I strongly believe that cell antennas need to be sited very carefully to protect the best interests of the community, and that residents should have the right to determine whether a cell tower or antenna is installed on their property.

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**This kind of antenna proliferation would drastically change the way our streets and neighborhoods look and feel, and to allow it is tantamount to permitting outside corporate control over community property values and aesthetics. The County has the right and duty to regulate installations of this kind based on aesthetics and protection of property value.**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Don Fuhrer*  
**DON FUHRER**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*3-15-10*

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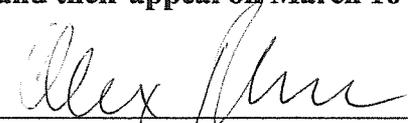
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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Alex M. Fuhrer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3-14-10

March 11, 2010

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Signed: Amanda Romo

Date: 3/14/10

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Signed: Eric Rome

Date: 3/14/10

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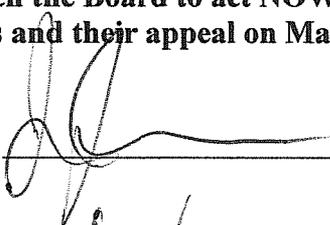
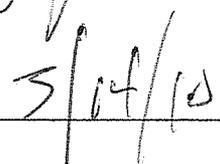
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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Lisa M. Felt*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*3/14/10*

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Signed: Emily Termond

Date: 3/14/10

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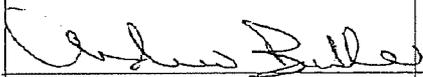
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Signed: 

ANDREW BUTCHER 1225 MESA ROAD, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93108

Date: 3/12/2010

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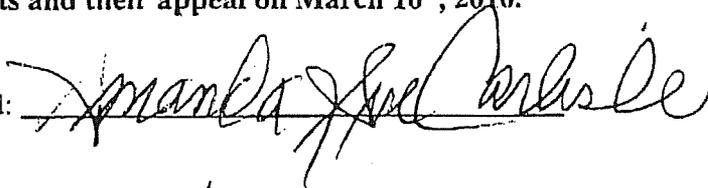
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