

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment

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From: Andrea Ruhge <AndiRuhge@bhhsca.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:28 AM
To: Andrea E. Ruhge
Subject: FW: CALL TO ACTION, Urge Supervisors to vote NO, ABSTAIN or PAUSE the vote on the Wireless Ordinance Feb. 4, 2025 / VOTE NO

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Santa Barbara should not approve a radiation-emitting cell tower due to the numerous health concerns and insufficient long-term studies on its potential effects. Exposure to electromagnetic radiation has been linked to headaches, sleep disturbances, cognitive issues, and increased cancer risks, although more research is still needed to fully understand these dangers. With the wellbeing of residents at stake, it is critical that the city takes a cautious approach and empowers the community to vote on whether such infrastructure belongs in their neighborhoods. Protecting the health and character of Santa Barbara should always come first.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lesley Weinstock <lesleyweinstock@yahoo.com>
Date: Sun, Feb 2, 2025 at 1:35 AM
Subject: CALL TO ACTION, Urge Supervisors to vote NO, ABSTAIN or PAUSE the vote on the Wireless Ordinance Feb. 4, 2025
To: Suzanne Riordan <suzanne@familiesact.org>

Please take action and forward this to your friends and neighbors.

On Tuesday, February 4, 2025, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (BOS) will vote on a very dangerous Wireless Ordinance, removing notification, hearings, opposition, setbacks and environmental protection. Applications and permits will be rubber stamped!

Request to Supervisors:

Please vote NO, ABSTAIN or PAUSE the vote until you hear from our third expert Dr. Kent Chamberlain. Please read his letter before the hearing and before voting on the Wireless Ordinance. Dr. Chamberlain served on the New Hampshire Commission, is a Biomedical and Radiofrequency Engineer, was Chair of the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering at the University of New Hampshire, performed research for over twenty-five sponsors, including the Department of Justice and the National Science Foundation. Most of his research has involved the

modeling and measurement of electromagnetic fields which included the siting of communications and navigation antennas.

For more information, details and talking points for public comments go to:

<http://emfsafetynetwork.org/safe-technology-for-santa-barbara-take-action/>

TAKE ACTION

Send written comments by 5 PM Mon. Feb. 3, 2025 to:

<sbcob@countyofsb.org>, <lcapps@countyofsb.org>, <roylee@countyofsb.org>, <jhartmann@countyofsb.org>, <Nelson@bos.countyofsb.org>, <steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org>, <egartner@countyofsb.org>, <cory.bantilan@countyofsb.org>,

<https://ca-santabarbaracounty.civicplus.pro/2836/Board-of-Supervisors-Methods-of-Particip>

YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CSBTV20> (Closed Captioning Available on YouTube)

- **If you wish to provide public comment, the following methods are available:**
- **Distribution to the Board of Supervisors** – Submit your **written comment** to the Clerk of the Board via email by 5 p.m. the day before the Board meeting. Your comment will be distributed to the Board and posted online. Board of Supervisors).
- **Attend the Meeting In-Person** – Individuals are allowed to attend and provide comments at the Board meeting in-person. To ensure participation, please arrive by 10am.
- **Address: County Administration Building, 105 East Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA. Hearing Rm. 4th Floor.**
- **Attend the Meeting Remotely by Zoom Webinar** – Individuals wishing to provide public comment remotely during the Board meeting can do so via Zoom. The hyperlink to register in advance is located on page 2 of the meeting Agenda. Meeting Agendas are available at the online [Board Meeting Calendar](#) and are typically published on the Thursday prior to the Board meeting.
- **Write Agenda item #3 when you register for the Feb. 4th Zoom meeting.**
- Once the Chair has announced the item you requested to comment on, please join the meeting with the information provided in the registration confirmation email.
- You will be placed on mute until it is your turn to speak. You will be able to hear the Board meeting live after calling in and will need to turn off or mute your TV or web stream to avoid sound interference. The Clerk will call you by name. When removed from mute, you will hear a notification that your line has been unmuted. If you are using a touchtone phone, you may need to press star-6.
- Each person may address the Board for up to three minutes at the discretion of the Chair.
- If you have any questions or if you are participating telephonically or electronically and need a disability-related modification or accommodation, or have any issues attempting to access the Board meeting telephonically or electronically, please contact the Clerk of the Board Office at **805.568.2240**.

When your time is up or you have concluded your comments, please hang up or log out.

Talking points:

The FCC states that safety belongs to the municipalities to regulate.

A small cell or cell tower adjacent to a home can reduce property values by 20% and 90% of buyers will avoid purchasing such a home.

We need more local authority over cell towers, not less, including that wireless companies provide liability insurance for harm and death. We must not give a free pass to the the multi trillion dollar telecom industry at the expense of notification, property values, dangerous fire risks, privacy, huge carbon footprint, health and safety.

There is currently **no monitoring of radiation of cell towers, so we have no idea if the radiation exceeds the FCC's outdated and obsolete exposure limits.** Neither the FCC, carriers or installers will be monitoring. Who will be liable for biological harm?

Wireless facilities increase the risk of fires. If the supervisors vote for this ordinance, they are ignoring very dangerous fire risks.

Four Southern California fires have been started by telecom equipment and overloaded poles, costing billions of dollars. We need fire safety protocols, and to adopt the Malibu The FCC states that safety belongs to the municipalities to regulate.

Wireless facilities increase the risk of fires. If the supervisors vote for this ordinance, they are ignoring very dangerous fire risks. Four Southern California fires have been started by telecom equipment and overloaded poles, costing billions of dollars.

1. The fires in Los Angeles City and County have shown California and the world that we are dealing with a climate crisis, with impossible conditions under which to fight fire.
2. Santa Barbara County must do everything in their power to prevent fires from starting.
3. Cell towers and their associated equipment can and do start fires.
4. Cell tower fires are electrical fires and they cannot be fought through conventional means (water suppression) until the grid has been cut. Otherwise, anyone putting water on a cell tower fire will be electrocuted.
5. Amidst Santa Ana conditions, cell tower fires can grow exponentially in a matter of seconds.
6. We are imploring SB County to implement Malibu's Fire Safety Protocol for electrical engineering rigor, and the federally required APCO ANSI for structural engineering rigor to help prevent fires in the first place.
7. We want a setback from all properties of at least 300 feet in urban settings and up to 1500 feet in rural settings. It takes longer to cut the grid in rural settings which gives the fire more time to spread and makes it harder for residents to escape from.

Issues in the Telecommunication Ordinance:

- Zero setbacks for “small cell” antennas
- No notice, no hearing, no way to oppose, no appeal
- No exemptions for coastal or environmental review (CEQA)
- No fire safety protocols
- No licensed professional electrical engineers to inspect, approve, sign and seal applications and permits for wireless facilities.

Need to add to Ordinance:

Liability insurance for harm and death
 Radiofrequency monitoring
 Proper mailed notification within 1500 feet of proposed telecom facility to occupants, restore notification on the agendas, restore opportunity to attend hearings, oppose and appeal!
 Reasonable and safe setbacks, eg 1500 feet

Require Licensed professional electrical engineers to oversee building and installing, and to inspect, approve, sign and seal applications and permits
 Proof of a significant gap in cell phone service on application
 Adopt Malibu Fire safety protocol
 Retain CEQA, NEPA, environmental laws and coastal hearing reviews
 Restore local government discretion on antenna location, so property owners can cooperate with authorities to zone cell towers far from bedrooms, classrooms and parks.
 Prioritize WIRED broadband connection

More Talking Points:

It is important to **retain CEQA and coastal permit requirements and hearings**. Do not exempt cell towers and antenna expansions from CEQA, environmental and NEPA review.

After thorough research of the codes in California, we found that **telecom was exempt from most electrical and fire codes at the federal, the state, and the county levels**. Thus telecom has been policing telecom from the very beginning.”

Transnational Gangs, “Jammers” hack into wireless systems of homes, schools and businesses and perpetrate robberies and violence. While all wireless communication is vulnerable to hacking, 5G networks are particularly vulnerable.

Your hands are not tied

Adopt the best parts of ordinances ie Malibu, Encinitas, Petaluma, Mill Valley, Palo Alto, Sebastopol, Sonoma, Oakland and Santa Rosa, especially Malibu.

Do not encourage **stealth and concealment**. Require the cell towers to be visible and mapped.

Require monitoring of RF radiation for all wireless facilities, by independent experts.

Wireless networks consume more energy than wired networks.

<https://envirotecmagazine.com/2021/11/08/how-green-is-5g/>

Government research proves that exposure to radiofrequency radiation (RFR) causes cancer. Wireless networks are more easily hacked. There's already a much better, safer, faster, more reliable, and more affordable solution for broadband connectivity — (wired) Fiber-Optics to the Premises.

We advocate for **Fiber to the Premises**, aka cable, aka wired internet or wired broadband. It is only in the interest of the multi trillion dollar wireless industry to deploy wireless facilities on utility poles, street light poles and traffic signal poles. This will NOT close the digital divide. **WIRED INTERNET should be affordable and accessible to all! It is faster, more secure, safer, has less fire risk and is far less polluting.**

Thousands of people like me oppose installations of unneeded, overpowered cell towers, often without proper notification to occupants and without proof of a significant gap in cell phone service. We need more local authority over cell towers, not less. Do not give a free pass to the telecom industry at the expense of our property values, fire risks, privacy, carbon footprint, health, safety, and the quiet enjoyment of our streets. Wired broadband, which is faster, more reliable, and more secure, NOT wireless broadband, should be accessible and affordable to everyone in their homes, schools and businesses.

Please meet with experts, who do not have conflicts of interest with the telecom industry. The independent experts can present what we believe are legal and necessary protections, not currently in the ordinance. The public must be given the time and opportunity to respond to ALL, proposed cell towers, be notified, have the ability to participate in hearings, oppose and appeal, regardless of facility's tier, size or design.

Industry is significantly increasing its attempt to site towers close to schools and residential areas, which experts have advised against. This practice is largely based on a business plan and not, in fact, true established coverage needs.

It is to be noted that telecom is a **multi-trillion dollar industry** with a business plan and vested interest to build out their network. This will allow them to expand into new markets. In doing so, they will make communities much more vulnerable to security, hacking, and other issues. Additionally, there are over 600 industry lobbyists in Washington, D.C. ensuring and securing industry business objectives.

Their activities include creating and preempting laws that streamline their deployment goals and take away your local control in regulating wireless facilities in your own community. This is a big business landscape and one that should be considered as you make your decisions about ordinances and cellular placements in your community.

Cell towers, because of their many impacts, should be based on the establishment of true need and not on big business objectives.

Suzanne Riordan
805-637-1339