



February 10, 2013

January 10, 2013

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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Re: Crown Castle/NextG Networks Proposed Montecito Facilities
Appeals, Board Agenda of January 15, 2013

Dear Chair Carbajal and Supervisors:

The Montecito Association has reviewed the plans for new and expanded Crown Castle/NextG Networks cell sites in Montecito on several occasions and provided input on the project to the Montecito Planning Commission. We ask that your board uphold the Planning Commission's action to deny the projects as proposed.

However, should you elect to grant the appeals, we would like to offer three directives in an effort to ensure compliance with provisions of the Montecito Community Plan. These provisions seek to preserve the visual character of Montecito roadways by ensuring that all development along roads is designed in a manner that does not impinge upon the character of the roadway (Goals LU-M-2). Further, any action to allow the proposed facilities must also take into consideration the community's clear desire for the undergrounding of utilities as described in Policy LU-M-2.3 of the Montecito Community Plan.

Our recommendations are as follows:

1. Place equipment underground where ever possible, even if it requires using a different pole;
2. Replace existing equipment with smaller equipment as it becomes available; and
3. Obtain the endorsement of the neighboring community prior to taking action to allow a pole in a neighborhood where utilities are underground (TSR26).

After we reviewed the project application last June, we wrote staff and the applicant suggesting that additional consideration be given to placing equipment underground to address Policy LU-M-2.3. We were pleased to see that the proposals for several sites, TSR06 and TSR25, now place equipment in underground vaults. We continue to request that equipment be vaulted where ever possible, even where it would be necessary to identify a different utility pole. This would minimize adverse aesthetic impacts and provide for consistency with the Montecito Community Plan.

The addition of antennas and equipment cabinets on utility poles and wires adds to the visual blight caused by existing utility facilities. Given the potential for smaller, less obtrusive equipment to be developed in the future, we request that the project be conditioned to require the replacement of facilities with smaller equipment when it is available.

Finally, we note that modern Montecito subdivisions have been required to place utilities underground consistent with the policy noted above. Proposed site TSR26 is located within an area where all utilities have been placed underground consistent with the MCP. Given the precedent of putting a pole in a neighborhood where utilities are underground, the Association cannot support a new pole absent the clear endorsement of the neighboring community.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dave Kent", written in a cursive style.

Dave Kent, President