

General Public Comment - Group 1

Anne-Odile Thomas, Santa Barbara County home owner March 1, 2021

As weeks go by, more small cell wireless facilities are being installed in the county. Many are next to homes, exposing unsuspecting residents and occupants to unnecessarily high levels of microwave radiation.

The current County Telecom Wireless Code gave the telcoms a free pass. It does not provide adequate protection for county occupants from these overpowered, unnecessary cell towers. The county code needs to be updated to be resident-friendly and resident-protective instead of industry-friendly.

The law is on your side, and you do have the power and authority to do this!

Safe Technology for Santa Barbara County spoke with attorney Andrew Campanelli, specialist in telecom law and considered the best in the country. He has offered to meet with county supervisors, staff, and planning and zoning people for 1 hour, to provide legal analysis and explain your local authority. You can re-instate the protections removed in December 2019!

In a recent presentation to a Community Development Board, Mr Campanelli said: "You have the power to adopt any setback ordinance you want. You have the power to handle applications under your zoning ordinance".

Specific conditions must be met. Mr Campanelli will provide the information you have requested and answer your questions to empower you as County Supervisors.

I encourage you to schedule this meeting as soon as possible with Mr Campanelli, the Board of Supervisors, Planning and Development, Zoning, Public Works, Staff and Safe Technology for Santa Barbara County.

Thank you.

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3-02-21

Dear County Board of Supervisors

Small cell wireless facilities are electrical facilities. They are vulnerable to structural failure. In addition, electric usage is often measured by a smart meter within a large number of cell towers. Smart meters can cause fires. What we learned from our experts was that under certain circumstances the surge protection in smart meters is inadequate. Smart meters utilize what is called a “varistor” as surge protection for up to around 350 V. That is the level of surge protection you would have typically find in a television set. Lightning strikes cause surges of voltage in the multi-thousands of volts. In those cases, the varistor would be inadequate.

When these small cells combust they take at least two hours to power down.

You have been told that you **cannot** prohibit small cell installations in residential neighborhoods. Have you been told what you **can** do?

You **can** revise our county code to adopt conditions to be added to the telecom permits granted to small cell wireless facilities. The FCC states that the State’s have the powers to impose generally applicable health and safety requirements.

Safe Tech SBC is requesting that our county code be revised to restrict telecom applications with conditions. In particular add fire safety requirements

Safe Tech SBC looks forward to a 1 hour meeting with County Counsel and Andrew Campanelli. He has written protective ordinances throughout the US. We would like to see him update our telecom ordinance as well.

Katie Mickey