LATE DIST

Katherine Douglas General Public Comment - Group 1

From: Miriam Lindbeck <miriam@weddingsantabarbara.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:56 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Wireless Ordinance Amendments Public Comment
Attachments: Miriam Public Comment BOS 1 14 25.docx

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Dear Clerk:

Please add this written comment into the record for the BOS meeting 1 14 25. Thank you!

Dear Members of the County BOS:

I am Miriam Lindbeck. I spoke in person last Tuesday 1/07/25 in your meeting during public comment regarding one of the growing hazards of our wireless communications infrastructure: that of power over-usage and fire. As a member of SafeTechSBC, I am associated with Lesley Weinstock, Anne-Odile Thomas, Katie Mickey, Ron Buckley and, Julian Gresser, whose letter was read into the record by Katie Mickey, though not in full.

By way of profession, I am a Certified ElectroMagnetic Remediation Specialist through the Building Biology Institute of North America. I am fortunate to have more than average knowledge about wireless communication radio frequency radiation, and its required infrastructure, and about electric and magnetic fields. Called EMF/RFR, their behaviors and properties are familiar to me.

As a professional, individual and member of SafeTechSBC, I am requesting you consider these following precautionary requirements:

SetBacks: for public safety, evacuations in case of fire

Use of Minimum Power: The FCC requires that fixed, mobile and portable stations use the "minimum necessary for successful communications".

Proof of Gap in Service: assures avoidance of over-proliferation and redundancy of cell towers

Reasonable Distance Between Towers: to avoid blight and conserving energy

NEPA statements and/or reviews: required by the FCC. If cell towers were not a National Undertaking, then this requirement could possibly be omitted but it is mandated.

Protection and preservation of Historic Places:

Safety Shut-Off Switches: In the event of a fire, earth event, collision, spontaneous combustion, failure or collapse, the power surges must be controlled.

Fire Chief and Fire Departments and Programs be involved in the safety aspects of the towers to make their work safer and more effective.

These are a few considerations for a truly regulatory and protective ordinance for the sake of public safety and health and the health and safety of the environment.

Thank you,

Miriam Lindbeck, EMRS

Katherine Douglas

From: katie sbbti.com <katie@sbbti.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 12:48 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public comment for BOS, 1/14/25
Attachments: PC BOS 250114, Santa Maria.docx

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.

Please see attached.

Katie Mickey
Director, Santa Barbara Body Therapy Institute
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Email: Katie@sbbti.com
www.sbbti.com

Dear Members of the County Board of Supervisors,

I am Katie Mickey. I am here to voice my objections to the proposed amendments to your telecom ordinance that you will be voting on Feb 4th. In light of the wildfires ravaging Los Angeles, I urge you to exercise the greatest of precautions when considering these amendments, in that they give the telecom free reign to blanket our neighborhoods with cell towers, which significantly increase fire risks for our County.

The events of last week, the present high winds and potential Edison Public Safety Power Shutoffs give you ample incentive to hit the 'pause' button and heavily scrutinize anything that increases the risks of fire to your residents. Did you know that cell towers are electrical devices that can ignite? In the last 18 years, at least four major wildfires in Southern California have been caused, in whole or in part, by telecommunications equipment causing over $6 billion in damages by the Woolsey fire alone.

Did you know that if a 5G tower catches fire, it is electrical therefore anyone who attempts to put it out with water could be electrocuted? Firefighters use special equipment on electrical fires until the utility informs them that the cell tower is de-energized. A city can be engulfed in flames during a Santa Anna event in the time it takes to de-energize a cell tower. During the Malibu Canyon and Woolsey fire in Malibu, Edison cut the power due to Santa Ana winds. The vast majority of people calling the fire department for help could not get a call out on their cell phones.

Did you know that electrically caused wildfires are not included in the Santa Barbara County and Municipal Wildfire Protection Plans? Meanwhile, the Goleta Load Pocket transmission line proximate to the Los Padres National Forest presents an unattended electrical fire risk.

The question remains why are the Planning Commissioners giving you an ordinance that downgrades our capacity to regulate fire safety, when the FCC clearly states that safety belongs to the municipalities to regulate? Safe Technology for Santa Barbara County's best understanding from meeting with members of the Planning Commission is that they consider the FCC's shot clock (deadline) requirements difficult to comply with, therefore they have streamlined the process and left out key safety requirements.

What they may not understand is that having a robust wireless facility application and permit process, with protective requirements will pause the shot clock if the applicant has not met all the requirements. Examples of safety requirements used by other municipalities, that belong in our Wireless Ordinance include: automatic shut off for electrical fires, rigorous electrical and engineering requirements; adequate set back requirements and six months of drive by drop calls to establish proof of need.

I ask you to **VOTE NO or ABSTAIN** on the proposed amendments to the wireless ordinance on February 4th.

Katie Mickey, Director of the Santa Barbara Body Therapy Institute

Good day County Supervisors January 14, 2025

I'm Ron Buckley, a county resident since 1971.

You may remember me as the guy with a pineapple in one hand and a slice of Swiss cheese in the other, asking you to separate out the updated Telecommunications ordinance from the Senate Bill 9 vote.

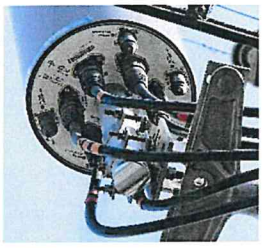
I plan to do another public comment on Feb. 4 concerning the Telecommunications ordinance. In the process of fact checking my talk I have been verifying the content with Planning and Public Works and Safety.

We are all now very sensitive to the threat of wildfires. My career in high tech as a Program Manager involved leading teams in the development of new electronic products. One of the requirements for our equipment was safety. I had an engineer, a compliance engineer, work for me who would take our equipment to a lab where they would put a gas burner under the for a certain duration to show that it would not catch fire. The lab would then certify the equipment as UL (Underwriters Laboratory) compliant.

I suggest on Feb. 4th you turn the revised Telecommunications Ordinance back to planning, and have them add 2 fire safety items:

1. **Proof of compliance with a recognized safety organization like UL. (electronics and antenna)**
2. **An automatic shutoff system in case the antenna or electronics catches fire.**

It makes no sense to me that my toaster has a UL sticker on it, while small cell tower antennas/electronics do not.



It is a grim reminder that the Oct. 2007 Malibu Canyon fire was caused by a faulty cell tower.

Thank you!

Ron Buckley

Katherine Douglas

From:	Marcy Winograd <winogradteach@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, January 13, 2025 2:51 PM
To:	Countywide Recreation Master Plan
Cc:	sbcob
Subject:	Greetings, Jeff, bravo on the parks plan. My thoughts/feedback.

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Dear Jeff Lindgren:

Thank you, county staff and supervisors for initiating and coordinating a comprehensive parks and recreation plan for Santa Barbara County I appreciate the emphasis on development of parks and recreation in the underserved areas, largely Latino, of Santa Maria and Santa Maria Valley, as well as Guadelupe–and the fact that you solicited input from organizations in traditionally underserved communities. In reading the plan I was inspired to visit and explore our county's existing facilities and to marvel at the possibilities of additional parks and recreation areas that can be reached via public transportation.

Please add page numbers in large font.

Please also consider renaming this plan the Santa Barbara County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive (or overarching, visionary) Plan, as the term "master" carries negative connotations, both in terms of racial overtones and top-down edicts, and has been rejected by real estate, technology and wine industries.

The overview

The plan includes voluminous data, charts and interactive maps on existing facilities and demographics, all of which reflect deep analysis, study and thought.

It would be helpful, however, to **provide an introduction that explains** the following:

1) the plan's **priority projects–driven by park equity and climate resilience** to address low income communities
2) the **number of years** anticipated **to fulfill the plan**; benchmarks and timeline for projects
3) the **amount of money needed** to implement the plan, along **with projections of revenue**, grants and state support and possibly a breakdown of the revenue sources
4) **whether the plan includes parks in both incorporated cities and unincorporated county areas** and **how the two are related** to fulfill the plan. Who pays, cities vs. county, to maintain what?

Recreation Benefit Project Program

I support public partnerships with non-profit conservancies, land trusts and grant programs to improve or establish new parks and recreation areas with the caveat that **local neighborhoods, particularly**

those in marginalized communities, be involved in decision-making on park design, affordable housing, zoning ordinances and partnerships.

Pitfalls of Public-Private Partnerships w/ For-Profit Land Developers (PPP's)

I would not recommend that Santa Barbara County approve public-private partnerships with for-profit corporations or land developers. Please do not privatize our public spaces.

The plan reads, *"This new innovative program would encourage private landowners to develop and maintain publicly accessible recreation amenities in exchange for incentives, benefits and assistance from the county."*

In Partnership for Parks, the Urban Institute raises concerns about the danger of ceding authority to private corporations that may prioritize money-making over public good, leading to limited access to certain park areas, overemphasis on concessions and profit-driven amenities, lack of governance transparency and community leadership engagement, uncertainty over park maintenance when companies are sold or go bankrupt, and green gentrification.

Long-time neighborhood residents may face higher rents when cities or counties offer "incentives" to land developers in exchange for contributions to park revitalization. A "recreation benefit project program"might allow land developers to build new moderate and higher income housing with a sprinkling of less desirable below-market one-bedroom units, thereby leading to green displacement. Please see this report from UCLA's Institute of Environment and Sustainability on Parks Related Anti-Displacement Strategies (PRADS). The report recommends local governments consider adoption of PRADs strategies:

1) For Renters: rent control, anti-eviction ordinances, renter education;
2) For Homeowners: down payment support for low-income home buyers
3) For Businesses & Jobs: first-source hiring ordinances that ensure construction projects which receive city financial assistance employ local residents
4) For Public Park Funding Agencies: inclusion of anti-displacement and climate resilience strategies in proposals

On land trusts and conservancies:

In reading the 2023 audit for the **Santa Barbara County Land Trust, I learned the Trust, with a robust education and outreach program, is admirably focused on preserving open space and agricultural land, having preserved at least 32,000 acres of open space since its founding in 1982.**

In that the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County is committed to preserving vast stretches of open space–not to the creation of parks, it **may be worthwhile to encourage the formation of a Santa Barbara County Land Trust for Parks.**

In a Housing Matters article (2022), "Centering Community Ownership and Voice to Combat Green Gentrification," the authors point to DC's Douglas Community Land Trust as a cooperative model for community ownership "to preserve and expand affordable housing," both to prevent developers from displacing low-income residents and to ensure current residents benefit from the investments in 11th Street Bridge Park"--an elevated park with outdoor performance spaces, playgrounds, urban agriculture and an environmental education center.

The authors from the Urban Institute argue that creation and maintenance of green space must be coordinated with the development of affordable housing (not luxury) in order to avoid green gentrification leading to displacement of people of color. **The authors disapprove of zoning changes that establish a special district for developers to invest in parks and recreation in return for permits to build predominantly moderate and high end housing units.**

In the article entitled, "The Challenges of Providing Public Spaces with Private Funds," the authors point to the Central Park Conservancy as a successful partnership between the City of New York and a charitable foundation, while also noting that even this partnership can prove challenging. On partnering with conservancies, the article offers advice, "**Have conservancies build in "a long-term maintenance fee to the initial budget of each capital project–an upfront gift that becomes a permanent trust fund."**

Even when conservancies successfully rehabilitate urban spaces, such as New York City's Highline, a transformed railroad right-of-way, Kevin Loughran, author of the book, "Parks for Profit: Selling Nature in the City," writes conservancies can "deepen inequalities when they wield their clout to direct public funds to underwrite privatized parks" in wealthier areas. He emphasizes the need for conservancy-driven park plans to link park rehabilitation or creation with affordable housing.

Other recommendations/feedback on the plan

Needed shade over park play structures

Although the plan includes "shaded structures" in the parks, I was not sure if that meant the county would strive to provide shade in the form of trees or sails over play structures or simply over picnic areas. I used to take my grandson to Tucker's Grove park near Santa Barbara, but had to stop during the spring and summer months because the playground was just too hot. It's unsafe for kids to be exposed to so much sun--and it will only get hotter with the climate crisis upon us. It's important our children
remain active, particularly given the epidemic of childhood obesity. If the county builds new playgrounds, please place them under tree canopies.

Adjacent play areas

Vandenberg Village park includes a tot-lot for 2-6 year olds and a playground for 6-12 year olds. I would suggest that the two play areas be adjacent, so that a parent or guardian with children in those respective age categories can keep an eye on both children at the same time. Same for the South Side Neighborhood Park.

Sand play

A feature my grandchildren appreciate at Goleta Beach Park and Tuckers Grove is the sand area next to the play structures. I vote for sand areas.

Parks as emergency distribution centers

The plan notes that parks can play an important role in community hazard and emergency planning. In light of the critical role of Los Angeles recreation facilities in distribution of food, water and clothing, along with provision of temporary beds and shelter during the fires that devastated Pacific Palisades and Altadena, I would suggest this recreation plan **prioritize establishment of enclosed distribution centers at several parks strategically located throughout the length of the county,** whether that involve constructing new community spaces, repurposing existing structures or partnering with incorporated cities or civic and religious institutions in the county.

Thanks again for your exhaustive research and grand vision for parks and recreation in Santa Barbara County. Much appreciated and much to explore!

Sincerely,

Marcy Winograd
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