

Ramirez, Angelica

General Public Comment - Group 2

From: Jessica Schley <jessicaschley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 10:30 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment and letter to Supervisors to be added to the Record
Attachments: 4.6.2021 BoS Hearing Public Comment Live Oak Equestrian Trail.pdf



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Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please distribute this letter to the members of the Board.

Very Respectfully,

Jessica

Jessica Schley
805-350-2922

Sotheby's International Realty
"Horses, Ranches, Homes."
CalDRE# 02011010

April 6th, 2021

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Jessica Schley. I am a land and water conservation policy expert. My education is in rangeland conservation and its impact on water quality. My degree is from UC Berkeley. I serve as the statewide Co-Chair of the California Rangeland Trust Legacy Council. I serve on the Boards of WE Watch & Santa Ynez Valley Riders.

There is a proposal for what is billed as a "pilot project" to change the Live Oak Equestrian Trail Area, a 3,000 acre region at the northernmost tip of Cachuma Lake, into a heavily impacted, high-traffic, unattended by Rangers, unrestricted in number of daily users, "multi-use trail."

The proposed project DOES NOT FIT the definition or described use of the area. It erroneously defines the area as a "Multi-Use Trail" when it is NOT.

The Cachuma Recreational Master Plan is the document that governs the policy and use of the entire Lake area. The section that governs the Live Oak Trails area IS BEING IGNORED.

The Parks department has, perhaps unintentionally, overreached their authority in attempting to claim this area for their expansion of recreational activities open to the public. ***Other than the TRAILHEAD***, The Live Oak Equestrian Trail area is NOT under their purview, and should not ever be added to their purview.

The project proposal did not come before the Board of Supervisors because it's proponents claim it will not trigger any need for additional funding or staff above the budget policy threshold of \$125,000, which is a dubious claim.

This project, if implemented ***in conflict with the CRMP***, will have an extreme negative environmental impact on what is documented as an ecologically sensitive area, **critical to water quality in the Lake**. This is noted by the Park's own Naturalist, the Audubon society, We Watch, and the EIRs done for the original management plan for the Live Oak area.

The area's primary, highest and best use is as a healthy oak savannah and foothill chaparral rangeland ecosystem ***that provides clean water to the lake***. *The extant grazing lease helps to provide that objective, and the tertiary "recreational use", as an equestrian-only trail, IS in harmony with the primary objective.* If I may remind the Board, the Lake is first and foremost a WATER resource. Recreational use is ALWAYS, always, secondary to water quality.

The Santa Ynez Valley Riders hereby requests that a member of the Board make a motion to halt the proposed pilot project immediately. Furthermore, we request a Resolution to clarify the definition of the area known formally as "Lease 1", and it's compatible recreational use by equestrians, so that this kind of gross overreach of agencies (unintentional or otherwise) does not happen again.

Sincerely Concerned,

Jessica Schley

Below are Citations to the CRMP and a list of our concerns about this Departmental overreach.

CRMP 3.8.2.1 - "The north side of the lake consists of open space that is leased for grazing and permitted equestrian use. It is NOT OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC ACCESS." (emphasis added for clarification)

The NOE filed for the project on 1.12.2021 describes the project as the "Live Oak Multi-Use Trail Program" however no such program actually exists. The area is NOT available to the public, as cited above.

The area commonly referred to as Live Oak Equestrian Trail (and not to be confused with Live Oak Camp which has its own separately defined use in the CRMP) is defined in the Cachuma Recreational Master Plan, section 3.8.2.2 as "Lease 1" and it's primary use is defined as a grazing area, the proper management of which is critical to water quality:

CRMP 3.8.2.1 cont'd: "... Much of this land has steep terrain and is managed for open space, watershed, and wildlife habitat...the primary management issue is the selection of the most appropriate grazing practices to ensure sustainable grazing while protecting the watershed conditions and habitats. Grazing has many incidental benefits to the land, such as fuel reduction and protection from wildfires, maintenance of diverse mixtures of grasslands and scrublands, and ongoing presence in remote areas that discourage trespassing and poaching. However, poor grazing practices can harm soils and vegetation, and adversely affect water quality in the lake. The RMP management actions must balance the benefits of grazing with potential detriments.

Under section 3.9.1.1, an agreement between the federal Bureau of Reclamation and the Parks Department is laid out:

CRMP 3.9.1.1 - The "Agreement to Administer Recreation Area" (Contract No. 14-06-200-600) was executed in January 1953. According to the contract, the County would develop, maintain, and administer recreation according to a recreation plan, prepared by the County, and approved by the National Park Service and Reclamation. The original plan specified ONLY (word added for emphasis) a 375-acre County Park on the south side of the lake. The contract allows modifications to the recreation plan by either Reclamation or the County provided both parties agree and the National Park Service approves the modification. The contract prohibits the County from adding any additional service or facility to the Plan Area that is not included in the plan.

The above section specifically prohibits the County from changing the existing use of the grazing lease area (Lease 1) where the equestrian trails exist. Now that this has been brought to light, the Board of Supervisors MUST order Parks and Public Works to halt their pilot project IMMEDIATELY, as it is outside the bounds of their purview and the project is being pursued illegally.

The trail opening is scheduled for April 15, 2021 (next Thursday) as per email received from Jeff Lindgren, Parks Superintendent dated 4/1/2021.

Regarding Costs:

There are already dozens of new costs this pilot project has incurred (partial list below):

- Kiosk design and install
- porta-potty install and **daily** COVID-compliant maintenance (staff or contractor?)
- Iron Ranger install & maintenance - and subsequent "revenue leakage"
- Security camera surveillance (?!) and maintenance (and staff for monitoring?)
- Trailhead, directional, and trail rules sign purchases and installation
- parking area mowing for fire safety (currently Live Oak has no dedicated mower)
- reassignment of equestrian parking, and enforcement of this new policy
- trash can installation and maintenance (equestrians always packed trash out)
- parking area security and oversight (and additional staff hours necessary)
- Twice daily opening and closing of the area entrance gate by Rangers
- Safety checks of persons whose cars remain after closing (are they lost?)
- Trail mapping - software, consultants, production, planning
- Costs to develop new user-group requirements for trail design features
- Maintenance of new trail features - none of which are currently needed
- Proposed trail decommissioning, and proposed new trail development
- trail-use oversight and management including trash pickup on trail
- livestock safety, and safety of hikers from free ranging wild livestock
- river crossing safety, and, most concerning:
- Enforcement of non-human contact with a tributary waterway (swimming)

The statement from Park management has been that the Lake staff will simply be "diverted from their current duties" to monitor the new project at the trail (which is miles away from the main recreational area at the lake)...the changes proposed are numerous and although the Lake states there is no triggering of a budgetary change, this is clearly dubious and doubtful. (Did they calculate it?)

Regarding Concerns of Harmful Impact to the Environment:

The previously planned opening of January 1st was published in ONE local media source, and just that coverage alone led to visitors parking outside the gate and hopping the fence, multiple calls to Rangers with reports of non-allowed users entering the area, Rangers being required to escort users out of the area, existing Park staff being overwhelmed, and increased monitoring being required until signage could be put up directing the public away from the area.

Ramirez, Angelica

From: K T <ktamazon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Ramirez, Angelica
Subject: public comment wirtten, 4-06-21
Attachments: BOS 4-06-21-written.docx

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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.

Dear Angela,
Please see attached public comment to be placed into the public record. Thank you,
Katie Mickey

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

Two Sundays ago, our County's Site Developer, Crown Castle was seen moving forward with their cell tower installation at 315 Arroyo in an unmarked truck with no license plate and no permit to do so. We have a link to a video of this event, <https://youtu.be/CJfwfakM2d4> in my written public comments. The resident adjacent to the installation cite requested they produce a work permit or cease further work on the site and was denied. These violations of DMV laws and of our building codes were reported to the local Sherriff's office and thus far we have not heard any action pending.

Furthermore the resident in closest proximity to the cite application gave public comment at the South Board of Architectural Review's hearing on this application and informed the South Board that he is disabled and meets the requirements of ADA for accommodations. In respect to the assault the proposed cell antenna would effect on the local resident's nervous system, the South Board of Architectural Review has denied Crown Castle's application and recommended that they submit feasible alternative locations

My first inquiry is why is the County doing business with such a that operates outside Federal Laws, State Laws and local building codes and disregards the South Board's denial or the imminent harm their installations are going to have on a disabled resident?

A week ago Monday Andrew Campanelli, met with our County Attorney and key County public officials and local residents to provide you with the very specific actions that you can take to protect your constituents by understanding and codifying the factual determinations local governments have to make to avoid law suits through the revision of our County Code. The specific actions required I detail in my written version of this public comment:

- 1) Revision of our County Code enacting:
 - a) Permit requirements
 - b) Gap in coverage requirements
 - c) Set back and Height requirements
 - d) No cell towers in residential areas, unless there is no other feasible alternative
 - e) Least intrusive adverse aesthetic impact requirements
 - f) Require the planning department to determine aesthetic impact
 - g) Disallowing computer generated coverage maps to meet the gap in coverage requirements, instead requiring drive tests
 - h) Substantiation of capacity deficiency claims with drop call records requirements.
 - i) Random testing requirement
 - j) A provision to require a demand for an ADA and FHAA reasonable accommodations for disabled residents be accommodated.
- 2) Codifying the 20 grounds for denial of cell applications into the County Code
- 3) Educate the planning departments in the 20 grounds for denial, so that they understand how to properly process cell tower applications.

There are pending applications now from Crown Castle within 16 feet of resident's homes and a county code that has no teeth to protect them since it was revised in December 2019. I have been speaking into the public record now for close to a good year on the harms this technology presents, the precedents other municipalities have taken to prevent further installations and the power the law gives you to do the right thing for your constituents.

My second question is what more do you need to instruct our County Attorney to step up to your oath of office and protect your constituents? The law is on your side, if you hire an attorney such as Campanelli to revise our County Code, we can use the power of our local zoning laws to require smart planning oversight to these installations.

Please give our nervous and immune systems the protections they deserve to be strong and resilient.
Thank you.

Katie Mickey

Safe Technology for Santa Barbara

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Ronald Buckley <ronald.buckley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 10:25 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: My public comment today
Attachments: Public Comment 3-30-2021.docx

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I'm logged into the meeting via Zoom.

Tested my mike and speakers, not sure what went wrong.


Can you call me at (805) 682-0114 so I can participate?

Katie Mickey, my wife would also like to speak.

Thank you!

Ron

Madam Mayor and Council Members:

I'm **Ron Buckley**,  a Santa Barbara resident since 1971. Homeowner since 1973.

I spoke several week ago about a "small" cell tower was erected 700 feet from my home last July with no notification or environmental review. And **who will protect the children** living close to it from the radiation emitted from it 24/7.



View from the neighbor's bedroom window!

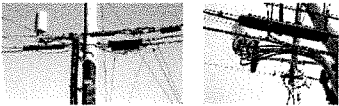


A newborn who lives close to the tower.

I've pointed out how these so called "small" towers are really Trojan Horses, **4G now 5G in the near future.**



After that, I spoke about the **aesthetics of cluttered equipment** and cables in the public right of ways.



I then pointed out the energy needed to get 5 bars on your cell phone requires the energy equivalent of a **pea shooter**, yet the so called "small" towers being installed all over town (possibly 4,800 of them) have the **power of cannons.**



vs



I also spoke about how the **radiation is pulsed**, like a punch in the face vs a steady light breeze.



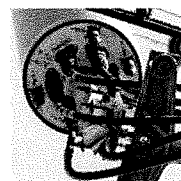
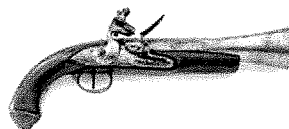
Finally, I spoke about the trees and how studies **conclusively have shown** that cell tower radiation **harms trees.**



Now I would like to talk about how energy wasteful these antennas are. If you imagine a baseball diamond and you are a cell tower antenna at home plate and the left fielder wants to talk to you. It is not a straight line of communication from home plate to the left fielder. The antenna pulses a **60 degree 3D field of radiation** from home plate into right field down to the left field line. And there are up to 10 of these antennas in each "small" tower **blasting radiation** in all directions. **A radiation blunderbuss!** It is one of the most **energy wasteful** designs one could think of. It's simply nuts!



And it is 3D!



"Small" tower, 6 antennas.

You have banned plastic straws, proposing to limit gas in new construction, you want Santa Barbara to be green. Then in your new telecom ordinance, please **limit the power, the number, and locations** of this wasteful invasion of our city.