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TO: Clerk of the Board

RE: Telecommunications Program Ordinance, Agenda Item 7
Dec. 1, 2009, Board of Supervisors meeting

FOR: Members of the Board of Supervisors:

“Existing safety guidelines for cell phone towers are completely inadequate.” *Dr. Gerard Hyland, physicist and two-time nominee, Nobel Prize in Medicine*

Telecommunications corporations and outdated laws have made it extremely difficult for communities to regulate cell facility placement or mitigate health problems from possible radiation emissions. It could adversely impact generations to come. Of prime concern is the placement of these facilities in residential or densely populated areas including those proposed for North County.

One such application by Verizon Wireless is for a 64-foot tower in an unincorporated area just north of commercial Lompoc behind St. Mary’s Episcopal Church. This area is already heavily residential, with a future community of over 1000 more residents planned by the city of Lompoc directly across from the proposed facility.

A cell antenna is also proposed at a church near College and V Street in Lompoc, in a residential area. Churches often have nursery schools or other youth-oriented programs that could potentially put the health of children at risk.

Further, the possibility of bundling or collocation of existing facilities could exacerbate the health problem. Real estate values could also depreciate. While cell tower facilities are needed to stay abreast of technology, why not consider siting approval for rural areas of the county until we have more concise information on the potential hazards of radiation emission in populated areas?

Sincerely

Morgann Tayllor Jack
Lompoc