

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Department of Planning and Development
Santa Barbara County
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

November 11, 2009

**Re: Emergency Moratorium and Update of County Telecom Ordinances
December 1, 2009 Hearing**

Dear County Supervisors,

We request that the County Board of Supervisors delay the approvals for the NextG site applications currently under review with the County Planning Department and slated for approvals by November 18, 2009.

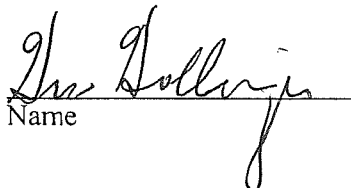
Using the FCC telecommunication guidelines from 1996 to allow land use for the latest in cellular antennas without a more complete review, does not serve the interest of the local population. Although improvement in cellular communication is desirable, the approval for the cellular sites on existing telephone poles as a Tier 1 review is inadequate and does not serve the best interest of the community at large.

Our concerns are as follows

- Fear of potential health risks. Specifically, there is concern for the effects of the radio frequency radiation on the central nervous system and the immune system as well as other metabolic effects observed in preliminary studies.
- Properties and neighborhoods become stigmatized reducing home values.
- RF analysis in the NextG application is suspect.
- Accumulative impact of multiple carriers is not addressed in application.
- Future of putting unsightly poles and wires underground becomes extremely unlikely because of shared usage.

Recommended Actions

- 1) That the Board adopts a 45-day emergency moratorium in order to allow staff and County Counsel to develop a one-year moratorium proposal for your consideration.
The purpose of both is to allow sufficient time for telecom ordinance updates to handle newly emerging wireless technology applications.
- 2) Direct staff of Planning and Development to initiate General Plan amendments including but not limited to elimination of the "utility pole" loophole. These applications should be removed from the Tier 1 Project classification (very small facilities only) and make any wireless facility mounted on a utility pole subject to the same zone restrictions and CUP processing requirements of the zone in which the utility ROW is located.
- 3) Further amend Santa Barbara County's telecommunications ordinances to strengthen our planning and zoning protections to levels enjoyed by other communities and still allowed under federal pre-emptions of Section 704 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.
- 4) Evaluate alternative sites not located near homes, schools or other habitable areas.


Name

967-3550
phone

email