



The voice of our community

June 26, 2014

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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Crown Castle Appeal of Montecito Project Denials, Board of Supervisors Hearing of July 1, 2014

Dear Chair Lavagnino and Supervisors:

The Montecito Association strongly supports the decision of the Montecito Planning Commission to deny the Crown Castle projects on the basis of visual incompatibility with the community and asks that you deny the appeal. As proposed, the 29 new nodes would contribute significantly to the visual blight of above ground utility equipment in the community. This would be inconsistent with the existing policies of the Montecito Community Plan and the County's Comprehensive Plan as detailed below, and cannot be approved.

The installation of ground mounted electrical meter pedestals, pole mounted equipment boxes and antenna along community roadways would be inconsistent with Montecito Community Plan (MCP) Land Use Goal LU-M-2, "Preserve roads as important aesthetic elements that help to define the semi-rural character of the community. Strive to ensure that all development along roads is designed in a manner that does not impinge upon the character of the roadway." Additionally, where this equipment is located in the Bella Vista Road area, it would be inconsistent with MCP Policy VIS-M-1.1, "Development shall be subordinate to the natural open space characteristics of the mountains." Given these policy inconsistencies, the Board cannot make the Conditional Use Permit finding that the project complies with the Montecito Community Plan.

We understand that any project denial must stand the test that it would not result in a gap in coverage for the carrier. Crown Castle has been very clear that much of the proposed project is intended to provide increased data capacity to serve a projected future need. It is not intended to address a gap in cellular telephone service which we understand to be the intent of the Federal law, nor does it even address a gap in current data service. Moreover, since the date of Crown Castle's application, Verizon has installed a wireless antenna tower on

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Santa Angela Lane in Montecito that we believe will address the alleged gap in service, and at a minimum Crown Castle should have to demonstrate that a need exists.

New information that only came to light at the recent Planning Commission hearing indicates that alternative methods of meeting the project objectives could eliminate above ground utility vaults. We request full exploration of available alternatives to ground mounted electrical meters, as well as the undergrounding of radio equipment and undergrounding of DAS cable. Only with additional undergrounding can development of this scale be found consistent with the General Plan and appropriate for the community. We are hopeful that the community will have the opportunity to review and weigh on in potential changes to the project.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Urschel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" and last name "Urschel" clearly distinguishable.

Ted Urschel, President