



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

ADDENDUM

Planning Commission Staff Report Agenda Item No. 4 October 26, 2017

SUBJECT: Initial Study Application No. 7261 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3567

Allow an unmanned telecommunications facility consisting of a 104-foot-tall monopole tower with 12 panel antennas and related ground equipment, including a propane backup generator within a 2,500 square-foot (50 feet by 50 feet) lease area enclosed by a six-foot-tall chain-link fence with a 12-foot-wide gate, on a 2.70-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.

LOCATION: The project is located on South Garfield Avenue approximately 400 feet south of its intersection with West Mount Whitney Avenue, within the unincorporated community of Lanare (21050 South Garfield Avenue) (SUP. DIST. 4) (APN 053-360-06S).

OWNER: Heriberto Almaraz
APPLICANT: AT&T Mobility

STAFF CONTACT: Christina Monfette, Planner
(559) 600-4245

Marianne Mollring, Senior Planner
(559) 600-4569

RECOMMENDATION:

- Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study (IS) Application No. 7261; and
- Approve Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 3567 with recommended Findings and Conditions; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action.

EXHIBITS:

1. Public Comment
2. Lanare Community Service District Meeting Attendance
3. Staff Report and Exhibits Dated August 24, 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

An Initial Study was prepared for the project by County staff in conformance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on the Initial Study, staff has determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate. The applicant has not proposed any changes requiring re-evaluation of the Environmental Impacts.

Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration publication date: May 17, 2017.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Notices for the August 24, 2017 hearing were sent to 48 property owners within 1,320 feet of the subject parcel, exceeding the minimum notification requirements prescribed by the California Government Code and County Zoning Ordinance. Because this project was continued to a specific date, new notices were not sent.

PROCEDURAL CONSIDERATIONS:

An Unclassified Conditional Use Permit (CUP) may be approved only if four Findings specified in the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance, Section 873-F are made by the Planning Commission. The decision of the Planning Commission on an Unclassified CUP Application is final, unless appealed to the Board of Supervisors within 15 days of the Commission's action.

Staff notes that that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits jurisdictions from "regulating the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the Commission's regulations concerning such emissions." (47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(B)(iv).) As such, staff's analysis of the subject request, determination of project findings, conclusions, and recommended actions to the decision-making body corresponds with Federal Law.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This item was originally scheduled for the June 29, 2017 Planning Commission hearing and subsequently cancelled and removed from the agenda at the request of the Applicant in order to allow time for the County and the Applicant to reach a resolution regarding concerns over the appropriate level of environmental review for this project. Following consultation between Fresno County Counsel and the Applicant's legal counsel, the County and the Applicant reached an agreement: the Applicant accepted the mitigation measures and the project was scheduled for the August 24, 2017 hearing.

This project was then continued by the Planning Commission at that hearing to allow the applicant time to discuss the placement of the tower with residents of the area. A motion to deny the application was made and tabled, to be opened for discussion at this hearing. Since that

time, the applicant attended a meeting of the Lanare Community Services District's (LCSD) Board of Directors to discuss the placement of the tower and to answer questions regarding radio frequencies. A copy of the sign-in sheet and AT&T attendance from this meeting is attached as Exhibit 2.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A letter of opposition which was signed by 48 members of the Community was submitted on August 8, 2017. This letter identified concerns that the telecommunications antenna is not necessary and increases the chance of children in the community developing cancers and disease as a result of the radio waves. A personal letter of opposition was received by the property owners who live across the street from the subject parcel.

A petition of support was presented to the Planning Commission at its hearing of August 24, 2017. This petition included 50 names without addresses. Following the meeting with the LCSD Board of Directors, the applicant submitted this petition again, this time with a list of 54 additional names and addresses attached. Staff estimates that seven of the 54 provided addresses can be associated with the 50 names on the first two pages of the petition. Because the names and addresses were provided by the public, some names were illegible and some property owners declined to include their addresses, leading to a level of uncertainty regarding their identity.

In general, it appears that those in opposition are located along West Mount Whitney, or near the intersections of South Garfield or South Grantland with West Mount Whitney. Approximately ten addresses in support are also located in this range. Other supporters are located within the community of Riverdale, approximately 3.5 miles east of the subject parcel, and scattered support is spread throughout the surrounding area in a radius of approximately 5 miles from the project site.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the factors cited in the analysis, staff believes the required Findings for granting the Unclassified Conditional Use Permit can be made. Staff therefore recommends approval of Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 3567, subject to the recommended Conditions.

PLANNING COMMISSION MOTIONS:

See the Staff Report Dated August 24, 2017, attached as Exhibit 3 for recommended motions.

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COUNTY OF FRESNO

AUG 23 2017

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

CUP 3567

Susana Cortes

Salvador Cortes

7383 W Mt. Whitney Ave

Riverdale, CA 93656

County of Fresno
Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services Division
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor
Fresno, California 93721 -2104
CUP APPLICATION NO. 93721 – 2104

To Whom It May Concern,

I am addressing this letter to oppose the placement of a telecommunications tower in the community of Lanare, CA which will be placed on Garfield 400 meters from Mt. Whitney Ave. We live in a house that is located on 7383 W Mt. Whitney Avenue. We own a property which is located on and where we have lived happily and comfortably for many years. A few months ago we received a letter from the county explaining that a telecommunications tower would be placed right across from our property.

Our house is located on lot 17, block 2, parcel number 053 360 08 in the Lanare community. The antenna is to be placed on a 2.7 Ac. Lot on block 3 which is situated in front of our house. The antenna will be placed in a lot across from our front porch. This is about 250 ft. from our home. I want to make emphasis on the negative effects that this telecommunications tower can bring to the people whose houses are located near this tower. In the Telecommunications Act of 1996, see 104th Congress, 1st Session, House of Representative, Report 104-204, Communications Act of 1995, Commerce Committee, July 24, 1995, page 95 states “that the use of Washington Monument, Yellowstone, National Park, or a pristine wild life sanctuary, while perhaps prime sites for an antenna and other facilities, are not appropriate ... and use of them would be contrary to environmental, conservation, and public safety laws. “
http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=104_cong_reports&docid=f%3Ahr204p1.104.pdf

We are not only concerned with the aesthetics matters but with the negative effects that this telecommunications antenna may bring to the community and especially the houses which are closely connected with the lot where it will be placed. These telecommunications towers send electromagnetic radiation which can cause negative health issues in people living within a five mile square area. Some of the health factors concerned with telecommunication antennas are cancer, headaches, fatigue, memory loss, sleep disorders, leukemia; cardiac disorders, damage to cell tissue and DNA, miscarriage, Alzheimer’s disease and many others serious illnesses. These

health issues mostly affect children, older adults, and women. We have family members, with small children, living and visiting our house where we often gather to eat and enjoy a nice afternoon together. How can we feel safe with a telecommunications tower across the street which will probably be working with a propane generator?

Telecommunication towers can catch fire and collapse, this being very dangerous since it will be backed up by a propane generator. When they catch fire they can set out sparks which can initiate a fire near our home and neighbors' houses. This can be especially hazardous since the property where the telecommunications antenna will be installed is a place where grass grows tall and dries up when spring and summer begins. This can be especially dangerous because these towers can attract lightning which can cause fire and the houses, people living in them, and wild animals in the area could be in danger.

We are also concerned with the devaluation of our property. Having a telecommunications tower may affect our property value. If one day we decide to sell our house, which we worked so hard to pay for, no one would pay what it is worth because nobody would like to live with a telecommunications tower sitting near their front porch. I think that if we had wanted to live near a tower we could have looked for a place where one could be found, but instead we looked for a place with clean, open space.

You buy your house and live comfortably in it without thinking that you will have a telecommunications tower in front of your house blocking your view. If the owner of the property where the antenna will be placed decided to lease his/her land, it was his/her decision and, he/she will benefit from it, but the rest of the neighbors shouldn't pay for the consequences of that decision. At least he/she would not be seeing it every day on his/her front porch.

We are asking that this telecommunications tower be moved to an area at least five miles away from the Lanare Community. I think there are many other places where this tower can be relocated.

Sincerely yours,

Susana Cortes and Salvador Cortes

--- NOTE ---

This map is for Assessment purposes only.
It is not to be construed as portraying
legal ownership or divisions of land for
purposes of zoning or subdivision law.

SUBDIVIDED LAND IN POR. SEC. 29, T. 17 S., R. 19 E., M. D. B. & M.

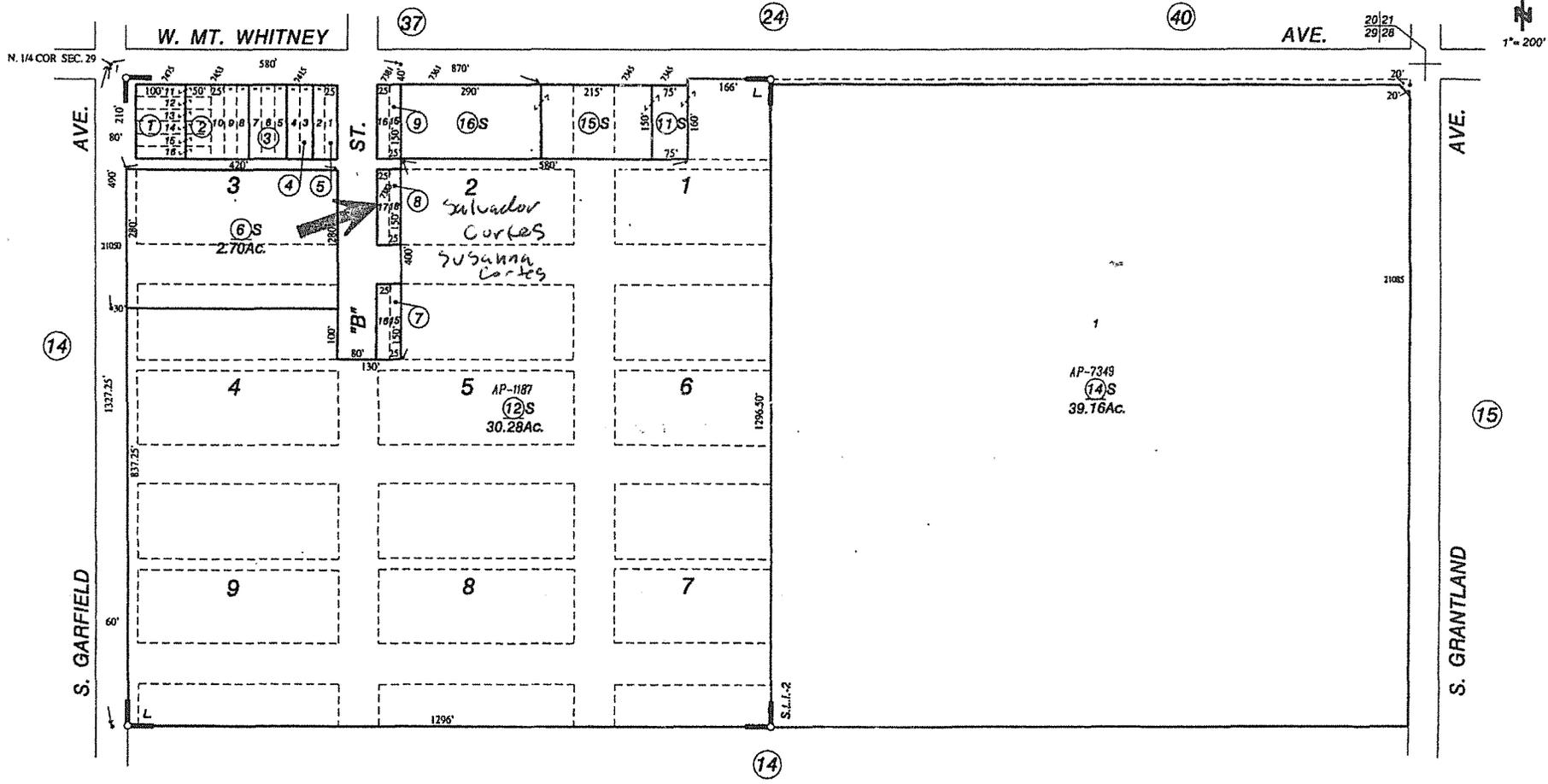
Tax Rate Area

170-014
170-022
170-023

053-36



1" = 200'



Agricultural Preserve
Lanare, Town of - R. S. 7, Pg. 52
Summit Lake Investment Co., Subd. No. 2 - R. S. 4, Pg. 6

Assessor's Map Bk. 053 - Pg. 36
County of Fresno, Calif.

NOTE - Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses.
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.



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COUNTY OF FRESNO Salvador Cortes

Susana Cortes

AUG 08 2017

7383 W Mt. Whitney Ave
Riverdale, CA 93656

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

(559) 867-4648

CUP 3567

County of Fresno
Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services Division
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor
Fresno, California 93721 -2104
CUP APPLICATION NO. 3567

To Whom It May Concern,

Lanare is a poor community just a few miles west of Riverdale, California. A few months ago the people living in the community received a notification from Fresno County informing us that a telecommunications monopole tower with twelve panel antennas was going to be placed approximately 400 ft. south of its intersection with West Mount Whitney Avenue, in the community of Lanare. The antenna will be placed in an area with many households, where children and seniors live, and are situated less than 400 meters away from the antenna. The community is concerned of the negative effects that this antenna may bring to the people living in this area. We are especially concerned for the children and seniors who are more vulnerable to health issues.

These antennas send and receive electromagnetic radiation and there is a high concentration of energy in these sites. Some of the members of the community have researched and found that the radiation from these communication antennas bring multiple health problems to the people living in a five-mile range. Some of the health factors concerned with telecommunication antennas are cancer, headaches, fatigue, memory loss, sleep disorders, leukemia, cardiac disorders, damage to cell tissue and DNA, miscarriage, Alzheimer's disease and many others serious illnesses. These health problems mostly affect children and seniors. Children are even more vulnerable because they are in a growing stage. Children can't block radiation because they have thinner skulls, they have a more sensitive nervous system, their immune system is not very strong, and can have cell and DNA damage.

We believe that in the Lanare community a telecommunications antenna is not necessary, especially since we are lacking other more important necessities. For example, in Lanare we do not have lights on the streets which are necessary for residents who have the need to walk at night to go to the store or other facilities located in the community because many people do not have a car for transportation. Our community has been asking for sidewalks, and a sewer system because all of our houses have septic tanks that in the long term can bring many problems. Our tap water is contaminated with arsenic which is not good for drinking and that is why every household in Lanare receives, from the state, a few gallons of drinkable water every month.

As you can see our community has more important needs than a telecommunications antenna. These kind of antennas need to be at least five to seven miles away from communities or towns where the radiation emitted from them may not cause health issues to the population. Many residents in the Lanare community do not agree with having this telecommunications monopole tower within the community. This is the reason we are sending this letter and a journal with signatures from many members of the Lanare community asking to relocate the telecommunications antenna at least five miles away from our community. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

The Lanare Community

Published on *East County Magazine* (<http://www.eastcountymagazine.org>)

Home > DANGERS OF LIVING NEAR CELL PHONE TOWERS RAISED

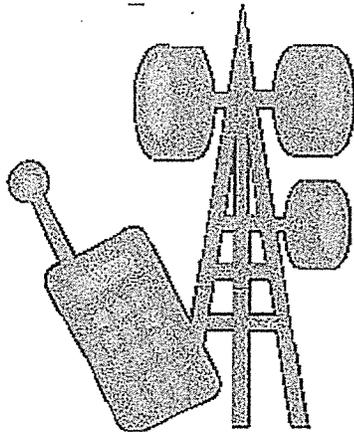
DANGERS OF LIVING NEAR CELL PHONE TOWERS RAISED

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November 2008 Articles

La Mesa Council holds hearing Nov. 5 on proposal to erect cell phone tower in Lake Murray area

By Miriam Rafferty



When Mom asked me to look into possible health hazards posed by cell phone panel antennas that a church in her neighborhood wants to put up, I expected to find reassuring facts to allay Mom's concerns. Instead, I found deeply disturbing data that makes me wonder why the public is not being informed about health risks—and why our government seems intent on covering up troubling truths.

Cell phone companies and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration assert that cell phone towers don't pose health risks to the public. Some studies support this assertion, but other studies suggest just the opposite.

Harvard-trained Dr. Andrew Weil at the University of Arizona's medical center recently observed, "In January 2008, the National Research Council (NRC), an arm of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, issued a report saying that we simply don't know enough about the potential health risks of long-term exposure to RF energy from cell phones themselves, cell towers, television towers, and other components of our communications system. The scientists who prepared the report emphasized, in particular, the unknown risks to the health of children, pregnant women, and fetuses as well as of workers whose jobs entail high exposure to RF (radiofrequency) energy....Because so much of cell phone technology is new and evolving, we don't have data on the consequences of 10, 20 or 30 years worth of exposure to the RF energy they emit," Weil concluded. The report called for long-term safety studies on all wireless devices including cell phones, computers, and cell phone towers.

A 2006 report issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) offered some reassurance and found no scientific evidence that radiofrequency signals from cell towers cause adverse health effects. The report noted that up to five times more of the RF signals from FM radio and television (than from cell towers) are absorbed by the body with no known adverse effects on health in the more than 50 years that radio and TV broadcast stations have been operating.

But an Australian study found that children living near TV and FM broadcast towers, which emit similar radiation to cell towers, developed leukemia at three times the rate of children living over seven miles away.

If you live within a quarter mile of a cell phone antenna or tower, you may be at risk of serious harm to your health, according to a German study cited at www.EMF-Health.com, a site devoted to exposing hazards associated with electromagnetic frequencies from cell phone towers and other sources.

Cancer rates more than tripled among people living within 400 meters of cell phone towers or antennas, a German study found. Those within 100 meters were exposed to radiation at 100 times normal levels. An Israeli study found risk of cancer quadrupled among people living within 350 meters (1,148 feet) of a cell phone transmitter—and seven out of eight cancer victims were women. Both studies focused only on people who had lived at the same address for many years.

Other studies have found that levels of radiation emitted from cell phone towers can damage cell tissues and DNA, causing miscarriage, suppressing immune function, and causing other health problems.

Astoundingly, the federal government does not allow rejection of a cell phone tower based on health risks, according to a 2005 article. A Google search found no evidence that this situation has changed.

Yet over 1.9 million cell phone towers and antennae have been approved nationwide without federal studies to assure safety of those living nearby.

How many cell phone towers and antennas are in your neighborhood? Find out at www.antennasearch.com. I plugged in my address on Mt. Helix, hardly an urban stronghold, and was astounded to discover that there are 96 cell phone towers, 286 antennas and 2 proposals for new towers within four miles of my home!

So how about Mom's neighborhood, where an Evangelical church insists a new tower is needed? Mom gets perfectly fine cell phone reception, and so do the neighbors she's spoken with—not surprising since there are already 113 towers and 335 antennas within a four-mile radius.

Churches, schools, fire stations, and other buildings are increasingly erecting cell phone towers or antennas because cell phone companies are willing to pay rental fees of hundreds or even thousands of dollars a month—welcome infusions for cash-strapped budgets. But at what cost to the public's health? There are young children in Mom's neighborhood, less than one block from the proposed cell phone antenna site.

In Sweden, the government requires interventions to protect the public from electromagnetic frequencies. Why isn't the U.S. government paying attention to this potential risk to public safety?

If you wish to share your views on the T-Mobile proposed cell phone tower at 5777 Lake Murray Blvd. (near Marengo Avenue), the La Mesa City Council will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, November 5th at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at the La Mesa City Hall, 8130 Allison Ave., La Mesa.

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Source URL (modified on 06/17/2014 - 04:43):

http://www.eastcountymagazine.org/cell_phone_towers_238#comment-0

Health and Environmental Concerns Regarding Mobile Phone Base Stations (Cell Towers)

The current studies we have suggest both short-term and long-term health risks within 300-400 meters of a cell tower. Thus, great precautions should be taken to site cell towers away from the most vulnerable segments of the population, such as children.

This document summarizes the increasing recognition of the potential health risks of cell towers from governments and scientists worldwide. While the issue of health concerns is considered to be controversial, much of this controversy is manufactured by key stakeholders and industry lobbyists. There has been a body of scientific evidence on the dangers of microwave technologies, since a decade ago, and many governments are only beginning to take action.

1. Government Recognition of the Hazards

On April 2, 2009, the European Parliament overwhelmingly passed a resolution on "Health Concerns Associated with Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)". One of the resolutions is that the wireless telecommunications facilities should *not* be placed near schools, places of worship, retirement homes, and health care institutions. See <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2009-0216&format=XML&language=EN>

In 2009, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to seek federal legislation to overturn Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which takes away local government rights to refuse cell towers for health reasons. Since then, several other local governments in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oregon have passed similar resolutions. <https://www.cloutnow.org/localres/>

2. Outdated Safety Standards

Complying with international standards does *not* guarantee the actual safety of cell towers. Existing safety standards for cell towers are thousands of times above levels found in scientific research to cause biological effects. The current widely adopted international standard is that of ICNIRP (1998), which specifies power densities of 9000 mW/m² for 1800 MHz and 4500 mW/m² for 900 MHz. In contrast, recommendations based on scientific evidence from a decade ago, are thousands of times lower. Only a few countries have been moving towards these stricter limits, e.g., Liechtenstein (1 mW/m²) in 2008.

2001 Salzburg Resolution	1 mW/m ² (or 0.06 V/m)	http://www.salzburg.gv.at/celltower_e
2001 EU Parliament STOA 2001	0.100 mW/m ² (10 nW/cm ²)	
2002 Updated Salzburg Outdoor Limit	0.010 mW/m ² (0.06 V/m)	
2007 BioInitiative Report	1 mW/m ²	
2008 Building Biology (SBM-2008)	>1 mW/m ² is of extreme risk	http://www.baubiologie.de/downloads/enGLISHrichtwerte_2008_englisch.pdf

Several studies suggest that a 300 to 400 meter minimal setback is required from a cell tower to avoid the risk of cancer and other health effects.

3. Appeals and Resolutions in the Last Decade

In the last decade, numerous scientific research papers, resolutions, and appeals have been published, expressing concern regarding low levels of electromagnetic radiation, such as from cell towers.

2011	The <i>Seletun Scientific Statement</i> (7 scientists in 5 countries), based on the 2009 International EMF Conference in Norway (http://emf2009.no/index.php/1293324), calls for reduced exposure limits from power line and telecommunications technologies, and reports findings of adverse effects down to 0.17 mW/m ² : http://electromagnetichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/The-Seletun-Scientific-Statement1.pdf
2010	B. Blake Levitt and Henry Lai published an extensive literature review in the Canadian journal, <i>Environmental Reviews</i> , which compiles many studies of low levels of non-ionizing radiation. http://www.maddahvas.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Blake_Levitt-Henry_Lai.pdf An <i>Indian government panel</i> reports on the dangers of both cell towers and cell phones: http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_jis-official-now-radiation-from-your-cell-phone-may-be-killing-you_1489258 http://www.dot.gov.in/miscellaneous/IMC%20Report/IMC%20Report.pdf
2009	<i>The Journal of Pathophysiology</i> , August 2009 issue, is dedicated to the Health and Environmental Concerns related to Electromagnetic Fields, and includes reports on the dangers of cell towers to human health and wildlife: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/legacy/broadbandgrants/comments/71B9.pdf
2008	<i>Venice Resolution</i> http://www.icems.eu/resolution.htm
2007	The <i>BioInitiative Report</i> of 2007 compiles approximately 2,000 studies on the health effects of electromagnetic fields, including studies at nonthermal nonionizing levels considered "safe" by international safety standards. The <i>London Resolution</i> calls for outdoor RF limits of 0.06 V/m = 0.010 mW/m ² , based on the Salzburg 2002 precautionary limit. http://www.icems.eu/docs/resolutions/london_res.pdf
2006	The <i>Benevento Resolution</i> , 2006 http://www.icems.eu/benevento_resolution.htm
2005	The <i>International Association of Firefighters</i> (IAFF) petitioned for a health study on cell towers because firefighters were affected by disabling illnesses after the installations. http://www.iaff.org/hs/Facts/CellTowerFinal.asp The <i>Irish Doctors' Environmental Association</i> (IDEA) acknowledges increasing complaints from electromagnetic radiation. <i>Hofer Appeal</i> , <i>Lichtenfelser Appeal</i> , <i>Helsinki Appeal</i> , <i>Freienbacher Appells</i>
2004	<i>Bamberger appeal</i>
2002	The <i>Freiburger appeal</i> is signed by many German physicians concerned by the health effects of cell towers, cell phones, and DECT cordless phones http://www.powerwatch.org.uk/pdfs/20021019_englisch.pdf The <i>Catania Resolution</i> http://www.icems.eu/benevento_resolution.htm
2000	The Salzburg International Conference on Cell Tower Siting, Linking Science & Public Health, established biological effects at very low levels of wireless radiation, from which we have the <i>Salzburg Resolution</i> . http://www.salzburg.gv.at/celltower_e

4. Summary of the Scientific and Epidemiological Evidence

Two important reviews on cell tower studies include:

- Henry Lai and B. Blake Levitt's article in *Environmental Reviews* (2010). See "10. Studies on exposure to cell tower transmissions" in http://www.magdahayas.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Blake_Levitt-Henry_Lai.pdf
- Michael Kundi and Hans-Peter Hutter's article in the *Journal of Pathophysiology*, "Mobile phone base stations—Effects on wellbeing and health". http://www.ccst.us/projects/smart/documents/082009_Kundi_Mobile_Phone_Base_Station.pdf

The evidence falls into at least 4 categories, including in cancer epidemiological studies, survey studies on symptoms of residents near base stations, in vitro studies, and animal/plant studies.

A. Cancer

Cancer has been reported in close proximity of cell towers, e.g.,

- Naila, Germany*: 3x new malignancies within 400 m after 5 years exposure (Eger, 2004)
 - http://www.emrpolicy.org/science/research/docs/eger_naila_2004.pdf
- Netanya, Israel*: 4x cancer within 350 m (Wolf and Wolf, 2004)
- UK*: 7 cancer clusters discovered around mobile phone masts (2007)

Other studies have found increased cancer from radio and TV broadcast towers. According to the Levitt/Lai review, cancers around broadcast towers include childhood leukemia, adult leukemia, and lymphoma clusters, elevated brain tumor incidence, and malignant melanoma.

- Radio tower in Rome* (Michelozzi, 2002), and recent court-ordered Vatican radio tower study
- Sutro Tower, San Francisco* (Cherry, 2000)
- Sutton Coldfield TV Tower, Great Britain* (Dolk, 1997)
- Australian TV Tower* (Bruce Hocking, 1996)

B. Other Health Symptoms

The WHO fact sheet claims "From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short- or long-term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF signals produced by base stations." However, this is questionable given that "10 out of 14 peer-reviewed scientific studies on people exposed to Mobile-Phone mast (cell-tower) radiation show adverse health effects." <http://www.mast-victims.org/index.php?content=who> Many studies reported increasing health symptoms in close proximity to mobile phone base stations (cell towers). For example, the following are some studies regarding the health symptoms:

- Santini, 2002* - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12168254>
- Santini 2003* - http://www.emrpolicy.org/science/research/docs/santini_ebm_2003.pdf
- Navarro, 2003* - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12168254>
- Abdel-Rassoul, 2007* - (Egypt) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16962663>
- Preece, 2007* - (Cyprus) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17259164>
- Bortkiewicz, 2004* - (Poland) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16962663>
- Rössli, 2004* - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15031956>
- Zwamborn, 2003*: Study by Dutch Technical Research Institute
- Oberfeld, 2004* (Spain)
- Eger, Jahn, 2009* (Germany) http://www.emrpolicy.org/science/research/docs/eger_selbitz_2009.pdf

See <http://www.powerwatch.org.uk/rf/masts.asp> and http://www.emrpolicy.org/science/research/fact_sheet.htm

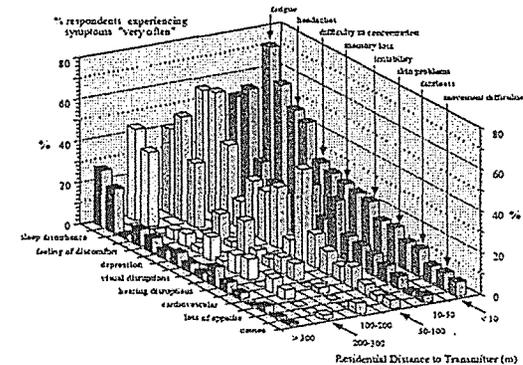


Image from http://www.magdahayas.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/05_HayasNCRFBTV.pdf: Residents near a cellular phone base station in Spain (Santini)

C. In Vitro Studies and Animal/Plant Studies

Many of these symptoms (headaches, dizziness, fatigue, nausea, insomnia, memory loss, and difficulty concentrating) may actually have a biological basis. For example, microwave radiation is known to change neurotransmitter levels such as acetylcholine (Henry Lai), open the blood brain barrier (Allan Frey, Leif Salford, Oscar and Hawkins, and Albert and Kerns), cause neuronal death and memory loss in rats (Leif Salford, Henry Lai, Lukas H. Margaritis), cause calcium efflux in brain tissue (C.F. Blackman, Ross Adey), cause calcium efflux in animal hearts (Schwartz et al), create stress proteins (Martin Blank), increase production of histamines, cause DNA breaks (shown by ~11 studies), increase free radicals (shown by ~24 papers since 1997), and so on.

- In the *Journal of Pathophysiology*, the article "Electromagnetic fields stress living cells" by M. Blank and R. Goodman reports on the cellular stress response from electromagnetic fields, and the potential DNA breaks that could result.
- In the *Journal of Pathophysiology*, the article "Electromagnetic pollution from phone masts. Effects on wildlife" by Alfonso Balmori, reviews the literature which demonstrates adverse effects on birds, mammals, amphibians, insects, trees, and plants.

Some Additional Resources:

- <http://www.electromagnetichealth.org>
- <http://www.radiationresearch.org> and http://www.radiationresearch.org/pdfs/20061101_base_stations_health_concerns.pdf
- <http://www.icems.eu/>
- <http://www.fullsignalmovie.com/>
- <http://www.emrpolicy.org/> and <http://www.youtube.com/user/emrpolicyorg>
- http://www.antennafreeunion.org/info_research.htm
- <http://www.emfwise.com/distance.php>

What are the Dangers of Living Near Cell Phone Towers?

by www.SixWise.com

Over 190 million cell phones are in use in the United States, with users often scrambling to another room, building or street to get better reception. As consumers, it is frustrating when your cell phone reception gets dropped or is too garbled to hear. But beyond "Can you hear me now?" is another considerably more important question:

Are the cell towers and antennas popping up all over the country - -the very ones that we depend on for clear reception and a wide coverage area -- safe?

This may have been a moot issue in the past when the towers were sparse and limited to obscure cornfields and hilltops. But the number of these cell "sites," as they're called, has increased tenfold since 1994. Among the more than 175,000 cell sites in the United States are antennas on schools, churches, firehouses, cemeteries and national parks. There's even a cell tower near Old Faithful in Yellowstone.

"Don't Put That Tower Here"

"Our companies are always running into this conundrum, which is, 'We want cell phone service, but don't put that tower here.' When you're dealing with communications through the air, you have to have antennas and towers," said Joe Farren, a spokesman for CTIA-The Wireless Association, the industry's trade group.

Aesthetics aside, the primary reason most people don't want cell sites near their homes and communities is because they're afraid of the potential health effects.

Already, more than 500 cases have sprung up across the country in which people have tried to stop cell phone sites from being constructed, according to Washington attorney Ed Donohue, who represents several cell phone companies.

Most of the time, the cell phone companies win because, as it stands, federal law does not allow rejection of a tower based on health risks.

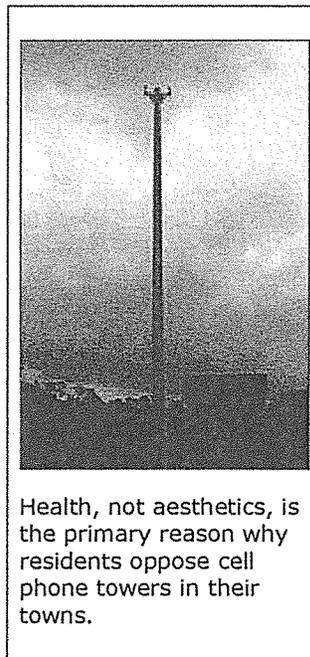
Cell Phone Towers: Risky or Not?

If you ask the government, no studies have shown conclusive evidence that radio-frequency emissions, a form of electromagnetic radiation (EMR), from cell towers are harmful.

According to the Food and Drug Administration:

"RF [Radio frequency] exposure on the ground is much less than exposure very close to the antenna and in the path of the transmitted radio signal. In fact, ground-level exposure from such antennas is typically thousands of times less than the exposure levels recommended as safe by expert organizations. So exposure to nearby residents would be well within safety margins."

Cell phone companies also maintain that no risks exist from the towers. "There are no health risks posed by the towers. Independent scientific panels around the world have



Health, not aesthetics, is the primary reason why residents oppose cell phone towers in their towns.

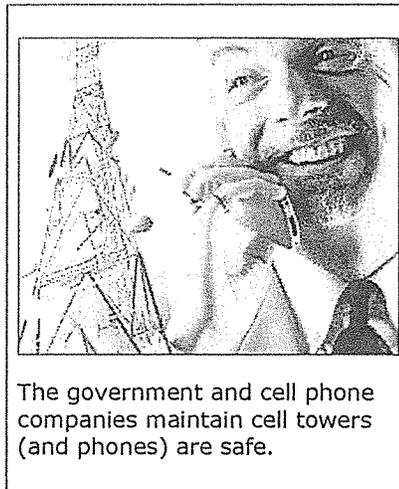
reached this conclusion," said Russ Stromberg, senior manager of development at T-Mobile.

But other studies seem to tell a different story, with findings such as:

- A study by Dr. Bruce Hocking in Australia found that children living near three TV and FM broadcast towers (similar to cell towers) in Sydney had more than twice the rate of leukemia than children living more than seven miles away.

- Says Dr. Neil Cherry, a biophysicist at Lincoln University in New Zealand:

- "Public health surveys of people living in the vicinity of cell site base stations should be being carried out now, and continue progressively over the next two decades. This is because prompt effects such as miscarriage, cardiac disruption, sleep disturbance and chronic fatigue could well be early indicators of the adverse health effects. Symptoms of reduced immune system competence, cardiac problems, especially of the arrhythmic type, and cancers, especially brain tumor and leukemia, are probable."



The government and cell phone companies maintain cell towers (and phones) are safe.

- Biomedical engineer Mariana Alves-Pereira says exposure to cell phone towers can lead to vibroacoustic disease. "From what I understand, some of the complaints are similar in what is seen in vibroacoustic disease patients, which are people who develop a disease caused by low frequency noise exposure," she said. Symptoms can include mood swings, indigestion, ulcers and joint pain.
- Dr. Gerard Hyland, a physicist who was nominated twice for the Nobel Prize in medicine, says, "Existing safety guidelines for cell phone towers are completely inadequate ... Quite justifiably, the public remains skeptical of attempts by governments and industry to reassure them that all is well, particularly given the unethical way in which they often operate symbiotically so as to promote their own vested interests."
- According to the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, "Studies have shown that even at low levels of this radiation, there is evidence of damage to cell tissue and DNA, and it has been linked to brain tumors, cancer, suppressed immune function, depression, miscarriage, Alzheimer's disease, and numerous other serious illnesses."
- According to Dr. W. Löscher of the Institute of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacy of the Veterinary School of Hannover in Germany, dairy cows that were kept in close proximity to a TV and cell phone tower for two years had a reduction in milk production along with increased health problems and behavioral abnormalities. In an experiment, one cow with abnormal behavior was taken away from the antenna and the behavior subsided within five days. When the cow was brought back near the antenna, the symptoms returned.

Incentives for Cell Phone Towers

Why would a church, school or other private property allow a cell phone antenna to be placed on the grounds? Cell phone companies pay "rent" for their placement that can range anywhere from \$800 to \$2,000 a month. This can mean all the difference for an under-funded school district or church.

Still, many people are wary that the incentives do not come close to matching the potential risk involved. This includes the International Association of Fire Fighters who, in 2004, came out against the use of firehouses for cell antennas "until a study with the highest scientific merit" can prove they are safe.

These sentiments are echoed by residents of St. Louis where T-Mobile plans to put a cell site on an 89-year-old church. "That revenue is in exchange for our potential well-being,

our peace of mind and our property values," said resident David O'Brien. "None of us are willing to take that risk."

Recommended Reading

[Noise Pollution: How Bad is it, How Bad Could it Get, What are the Effects?](#)

[Bottled Water: Which City's Tap Water System is Making a Flood of Cash off of You?](#)

Sources

[Food and Drug Administration: Cell Phone Facts](#)

[Health Effects Associated With Mobile Base Stations in Communities](#)

[Are Cell Phone Towers Making You Sick?](#)

[Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center](#)

[Wired News: Cell Phone Tower Debate Grows](#)

[Extraordinary Behaviors in Cows in Proximity to Transmission Towers](#)

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AUG 08 2017

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Community of Lanare does not
want telecommunications tower

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Solorro Ramirez
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- *Suma Lopez*
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Juana Solorio

Ofelia Solorio
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Solom Vargas
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Solom V.

Susana Cortes

7383 W. Mt. Whitney Ave.

Riverdale CA 93656

Judana Cortes

**Lanare Community Service District
20620 S Grantland Ave.
Riverdale, CA 93656**

**Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 5 p.m.**

AT&T ATTENDEES

(1) Applicant/AT&T Representative

Maria Kim
Complete Wireless Consulting, Inc.
2009 V Street
Sacramento, CA 95818
Phone: (916) 247-6087
Email: mkim@completewireless.net
Website: www.completewireless.net

(2) Independent Third-Party Radio Frequency Engineer

Neil Olij, P.E.
Hammett & Edison, Inc.
470 Third Street West
Sonoma, California 95476
Phone: (707) 996-5200
Email: mail@h-e.com
Website: www.h-e.com

Hammett & Edison provides regulatory compliance services for wireless telecommunications, RF exposure, interference & coverage studies. H&E has responded to client needs with a growing focus on environmental compliance for wireless telecommunications base stations.

(3) Spanish-Language Interpreter

Antonia Espindola
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6525 N Vista Avenue
Fresno, CA 93722
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Email: office@fresnointerpreting.com
Website: www.fresnointerpreting.com

Fresno Interpreting & Translating has been providing language access services for over 20 years across the Central Valley, specializing in professional interpreting and translation services. FIT's areas of expertise focus on legal and administrative hearings and medical fields.

Aug 8 - 2017

Petition of signatures in support of
a 104 foot tall monopole tower with
12 panel antennas, and related
ground equipment. To be used for
Internet, wi-fi, etc. To be installed
in Lanare, CA.

1. Teresa Reyes
2. Rosa Montamez
3. Vicky Smith
4. Jelin Chavez
5. ~~_____~~
6. Cecilia Rios
7. Jose d Cruz
8. IGNACIO RODRIGUEZ L
9. Maria Luiza Lopez de B.
10. Jaim Mejia
11. Ana Valdez
12. Rosalba Cruz
13. Alayeli Garcia
14. FRANCISCO BETANCOURT
15. Mercedes Martinez
16. Joni Gomez
17. Aligui
18. Lupe Arce
19. Marcela Lopez
20. Maria Lopez
21. Braulio Medina

- 22 Esmeralda Beltran
- 23 Leticia Martinez
- 24 Elycia Bimveta
- 25 ~~Juzel Salas~~
- 26 Jovita Rodriguez
- 27 Erasmo Valde
- 28 Roberto Vega
- 29 Patricia Bates
- 30 Julie F Sheets
- 31 Cecelia Garcia
- 32 Susan Salomoni
- 33 Maria Encaya
- 34 BLANCA OLIVERA
- 35 ~~Amun De la Pz~~
- 36 ~~Amun Giraldo~~
- 37 ~~Jayla J. Titler~~
- 38 Maribel Rodriguez
- 39 Adriana Suarez
- 40 Maria Guana
- 41 RICARDO TAYOHA
- 42 Rosalinda Gonzalez
- 43 Liliana Enriquez
- 44 Connie Hernandez
- 45 ~~Maria Vazquez~~
- 46 Rafaela Zamora
- 47 Janet Kemura
- 48 Erika Padilla
- 49 Lala Carbajal
- 50 Isabel Soriano

1) Nombre Dirección N# Telefono
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Riverdale 93656
867-3230

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4) Guadalupe Gonzalez
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11) Cecilia Muñoz
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12) Yesenia Martinez
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Riverdale ca 93656

13) Elnia Pansa
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Lemoore CA ZP. 93245

14) Martha Garcia
17270 S Westlawn
Riverdale CA 93656

15) Ricardo Cortez
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Riverdale, CA 93656
MC

16) Marcela Lopez
Bowmount Whitney Ave.
Riverdale, CA

17) Rosa Ramirez
21455 S. Bryan Ave
Riverdale CA 93656

18) Marian Ramirez
2876 S Stattem
Riverdale CA 93656

19) 21357 S Monte
Sahda Alcazar

20) Rocio Padilla
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Caton Ca

21) Purgatorio Malagoni
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Riverdale, CA 93654

22) Maria Flores 3695 Henson

23) Maria Solis
3667 Henson St. Riverdale

24) TERESA Guerrero
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Riverdale

25) Antonio Morano
23304 ELDUG AVE
Riverdale, CA
93656



26) Idania Barber
Mt Whitney
Riverdale, CA 93656

27) Maria Luisa Barber
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Riverdale, CA 93656

28) Rosario Gomez
21336 S WY HT
Over Riverdale CA 93656

29) Nancy Bunte

30) Marizd Aguilera

31) Veronica Hernandez
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32) Francisca Ochoa
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Fidelia Gaxiola

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Maria Sozuela 3828 E Riverdale Saton Calif 93242

35) Ana Quintanar 20655 S. Garfield Riverdale
CA. 93656

36) Maria Luisa Ramirez

37) Jim Coberly
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38) Fred Chintan
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39) Nicolasa Hernandez
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40) A Leticia Lynn
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41) Amelicio MARTINEZ
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42) Hemelinda Madrigal
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93624

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57) Angelica Solorio
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58) Abdulia Sana
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46) ISA MICHAEL
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Riverdale

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53) Hilda Rodriguez
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54) Veronica Sanchez
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AT&T Telecommunications Tower Discussion
 Discusión de la torre de telecomunicaciones AT&T

Meeting Sign In Sheet / Reunión De Asistencia

Name / Nombre	Address / dirección	Phone / número de teléfono	Email / correo electrónico
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Kulentrinos Gomez	20944 S. Garfield	559 362 7591	
Marganda Martinez	7320 W. Mount Whitney	559. 867-4129	
Jose Solario	20894 S. Grantland	559 451-7488	
Samuel Ayon	7383 W. Mt Whitney	559-270-0379	
Amanda Monaco	Leadership Counsel		
Esther Escobedo	7208 W. Mt. Whitney Riverdale Ca 93656	559/867-3425	esther94@sbcglobal.net
Ramon Vargas	7070 W. Mt Whitney.	867-15-35	
Lola Zantya	20810 SO Yuba	562 772 9652	
Alberto Sanchez	20856	816 5343	

Lanare Community Service District
 20620 S Grantland Ave
 Riverdale, CA 93656
 Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 5 p.m.

AT&T Telecommunications Tower Discussion
 Discusión de la torre de telecomunicaciones AT&T

Meeting Sign In Sheet / Reunión De Asistencia

Name / Nombre	Address / dirección	Phone / número de teléfono	Email / correo electrónico
Angel Hernandez	20852 S. Chateau Fresno	(559) 999 7837	
So Coronado			
Quico Vaz	2052 W. Mt. Whitney Ave	(559) 772-2256	
Ernest Perez	7208 W. Mt. Whitney	(559) 867-3425	
Clarissa Perez	7208 W. Mt. Whitney	(559) 326-8953	
Serina Perez	7208 W. Mt. Whitney	(559) 203-2278	
Susana Cortes			
Danielle Roberts	6920 W. Mt. Whitney	(559) 240-3442	
Felipe Abrada	20789 S Grantland Riverdale	(559) 776-5199	
Bernardo Salotio	20755 S Grantland Ave Riverdale CA 93656	(559) 896-2454	
Utrera Antonez	20789 S Grantland Riverdale CA 93656	(559) 852-7391	



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

Planning Commission Staff Report Agenda Item No. 3 August 24, 2017

SUBJECT: Initial Study Application No. 7261 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3567

Allow an unmanned telecommunications facility consisting of a 104-foot-tall monopole tower with 12 panel antennas and related ground equipment including a propane backup generator within a 2,500 square-foot (50 feet by 50 feet) lease area enclosed by a six-foot-tall chain-link fence with a 12-foot-wide gate, on a 2.70-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.

LOCATION: The project is located on South Garfield Avenue approximately 400 feet south of its intersection with West Mount Whitney Avenue, within the unincorporated community of Lanare (21050 South Garfield Avenue) (SUP. DIST. 4) (APN 053-360-06S).

OWNER: Heriberto Almaraz
APPLICANT: AT&T Mobility

STAFF CONTACT: Christina Monfette, Planner
(559) 600-4245

Chris Motta, Principal Planner
(559) 600-4227

RECOMMENDATION:

- Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study (IS) Application No. 7261; and
- Approve Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 3567 with recommended Findings and Conditions; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action.

EXHIBITS:

1. Mitigation Monitoring, Conditions of Approval and Project Notes
2. Location Map
3. Existing Zoning Map
4. Existing Land Use Map
5. Cell Tower Vicinity Map
6. Existing and Proposed Coverage Maps
7. Site Plans and Detail Drawings
8. Elevations
9. Applicant's Operational Statement
10. Summary of Initial Study Application No. 7261
11. Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration
12. Public Comment

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION:

Criteria	Existing	Proposed
General Plan Designation	Agricultural	No change
Zoning	AE-20	No change
Parcel Size	2.70 acres	No change
Project Site	None	2,500 square feet
Structural Improvements	Single-family residence, mobile home, two sheds	Addition of 104-foot-tall monopole tower, equipment shelter, and standby generator within a new 50-foot by 50-foot lease area
Nearest Residence*	275 feet north	No change
Surrounding Development	Residential to the north, along Mount Whitney Avenue; agricultural to the east, south and west	No change

Criteria	Existing	Proposed
Operational Features	None	Continuous operation
Employees	None	No change
Customers	None	No change
Traffic Trips	Residential	1-2 trips/month for maintenance
Lighting	Residential	One motion-sensor light by equipment shelter
Hours of Operation	N/A	Continuous

*As measured from the nearest edge of the proposed 50-foot by 50-foot lease area

EXISTING VIOLATION (Y/N) AND NATURE OF VIOLATION: N

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

An Initial Study was prepared for the project by County staff in conformance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on the Initial Study, staff has determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate. A summary of the Initial Study is included as Exhibit 10.

Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration publication date: May 17, 2017.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Notices were sent to 48 property owners within 1,320 feet of the subject parcel, exceeding the minimum notification requirements prescribed by the California Government Code and County Zoning Ordinance.

PROCEDURAL CONSIDERATIONS:

An Unclassified Conditional Use Permit (CUP) may be approved only if four Findings specified in the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance, Section 873-F are made by the Planning Commission.

The decision of the Planning Commission on an Unclassified CUP Application is final, unless appealed to the Board of Supervisors within 15 days of the Commission’s action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Prior to 1967, the subject parcel was zoned Interim R-A (Single-family residential-agricultural) as part of an effort to protect the nearby Lemoore Naval Base from the encroachment of non-compatible land uses. With the adoption of Amendment Application No. 1813 on November 7, 1967, the parcel was rezoned to R-A (Single-family residential-agricultural).

County-initiated Amendment Application No. 3045 was approved on July 27, 1978 to rezone parcels within the Lanare Community Plan from R-A to AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size), which is the current zoning on the property.

This application proposes to allow the installation of a new 104-foot monopole tower, an equipment shelter, and a 500-gallon propane standby generator on a 50-foot by 50-foot lease area enclosed by a slatted chain-link fence. The lease area is currently unimproved. Access to the site will be via a 20-foot-wide access and utility easement from S. Garfield Avenue. This proposal will provide high-speed internet access to approximately 366 living units near Lanare.

This item was originally scheduled for the June 29, 2017 Planning Commission hearing and subsequently cancelled and removed from the agenda at the request of the Applicant in order to allow time for the County and the Applicant to reach a resolution regarding concerns over the appropriate level of environmental review for this project. Following consultation between Fresno County Counsel and the Applicant’s legal counsel, the County and the Applicant reached an agreement, the Applicant accepted the mitigation measures, and the project was scheduled for this hearing.

***Finding 1:** That the site of the proposed use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate said use and all yards, spaces, walls and fences, parking, loading, landscaping, and other features required by this Division, to adjust said use with land and uses in the neighborhood.*

	Current Standard:	Proposed Operation:	Is Standard Met (y/n)
Setbacks	Front (West): 35 feet Sides: 20 feet Rear (East): 20 feet	Front: 42 feet North side: 25 feet South side: 30 feet Rear: >200 feet	Yes
Parking	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lot Coverage	N/A	N/A	N/A
Space Between Buildings	6 feet	No change	Yes
Wall Requirements	N/A	N/A	N/A
Septic Replacement Area	No septic proposed	N/A	N/A
Water Well Separation	N/A	N/A	N/A

Reviewing Agency/Department Comments Regarding Site Adequacy:

Development Engineering Section of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning: According to FEMA, FIRM Panel 2875J, the project site is not subject to flooding from the 1%-chance storm. According to U.S.G.S. Quad Maps, there are no existing natural drainage channels adjacent to or running though the parcel.

Zoning Section of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning: All proposed improvements related to the cell site operation will require permits. If the existing sheds and mobile home are not removed, a Director Review and Approval and building permit will be required for the mobile home, and permits will be required for the sheds. If the unpermitted structures are not permitted or removed prior to final inspection for the cell site building permits, a violation will be issued.

Naval Air Station Lemoore: Staff has preliminarily evaluated the proposed monopole; due to the height and location proposed for the structure, there may be impact to naval flight operations in our north extension. We request the project be evaluated through the Federal Aviation Administrations' (FAA) Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis (OE/AAA) process.

The Fresno County Department of Agriculture reviewed this application and returned “no comments”.

No other comments specific to the adequacy of the site were expressed by reviewing Agencies or Departments.

Analysis:

According to the site plan, existing improvements on the property include two residences, two sheds, and an existing fenced area. All existing improvements meet the setback requirements of the AE-20 Zone District. The proposed lease area is also within the required setbacks.

Regarding the Naval Air Station Lemoore request to submit this application to the FAA's OE/AAA process, staff has included this requirement as a condition of approval. This evaluation may indicate the need for additional safety lighting.

Staff finds that the parcel is adequate in size and shape to accommodate the proposed use.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

See recommended Conditions of Approval attached as Exhibit 1.

Conclusion:

Finding 1 can be made.

Finding 2: That the site for the proposed use relates to streets and highways adequate in width and pavement type to carry the quantity and kind of traffic generated by the proposed use.

		Existing Conditions	Proposed Operation
Private Road	No	None	N/A
Public Road Frontage	Yes	S. Garfield Avenue (280 feet)	No change
Direct Access to Public Road	Yes	S. Garfield Avenue (one driveway)	Additional 20-foot-wide access from S. Garfield Avenue
Road Average Daily Traffic (ADT)		200	No change
Road Classification		Local	No change
Road Width		12.9 feet	No change

		Existing Conditions	Proposed Operation
Road Surface		Unknown	N/A
Traffic Trips		Residential	Residential plus 1-2 maintenance trips/month
Traffic Impact Study (TIS) Prepared	No	N/A	N/A
Road Improvements Required		None	N/A

Reviewing Agency/Department Comments Regarding Adequacy of Streets and Highways:

Development Engineering Section of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning: Garfield Avenue is a County-maintained road classified as a Local road with an existing 30-foot right-of-way east of the centerline along the parcel frontage, per Plat Book. The minimum width for a Local road right-of-way east of the centerline is 30 feet. Records indicate this section of Garfield Avenue from Mount Whitney Avenue to the end of the maintained road has an ADT of 200, pavement width of 12.9 feet, unknown structural section, and is in very poor condition.

Any work done within the right-of-way to construct a new driveway or improve an existing driveway will require an Encroachment Permit from the Road Maintenance and Operations Division. If not already present, ten-foot by ten-foot corner cutoffs should be improved for sight distance purposes at any exiting driveways.

A grading permit or voucher may be required for any grading proposed with this application.

The following agencies reviewed this application and returned “no comments” or “no concerns”: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Design Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning.

No other comments specific to the adequacy of streets and highways were expressed by reviewing Agencies or Departments.

Analysis:

Once construction of the tower is completed, the project will contribute up to two round trips per month for regular maintenance of the equipment. South Garfield Avenue, as a Local road, ultimately requires 30 feet of right-of-way on each side of the centerline. Review of the existing width indicates that there is no additional right-of-way dedication required of this parcel. Caltrans and the Design Division reviewed this application for adverse impacts to County and state roads. Both agencies indicated no concerns with the proposal.

Based on the above information, staff believes that this section of Garfield Avenue and other County roads serving this parcel will be adequate to accommodate the proposed use.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

None

Conclusion:

Finding 2 can be made.

Finding 3: That the proposed use will have no adverse effect on abutting property and surrounding neighborhood or the permitted use thereof.

Surrounding Parcels				
	Size:	Use:	Zoning:	Nearest Residence*:
North	0.37 acre 0.43 acre 0.26 acre 0.17 acre 0.17 acre	Vacant Single-family residence Vacant Single-family residence Vacant	All parcels zoned C-6 (General Commercial)	None 275 feet north None 375 feet northeast None
South	30.28 acres	Field crops	AE-20	None
East	0.17 acre 0.17 acre	Single-family residence Vacant	AE-20 R-A	470 feet None
West	3 parcels totaling approximately 5 acres	Vacant (use for utilities was indicated by the APNs)	M-1 (Light Industrial) and AE-20	None

*As measured from the nearest edge of the proposed 50-foot by 50-foot lease area

Reviewing Agency/Department Comments:

Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division: Facilities proposing to use and/or store hazardous materials and/or hazardous wastes shall meet the requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), Division 20, Chapter 6.95, and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. Any business that handles a hazardous material or hazardous waste may be required to submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan pursuant to the HSC, Division 20, Chapter 6.95.

All hazardous waste shall be handled in accordance with requirements set forth in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. This Division discusses proper labeling, storage and handling of hazardous wastes.

Lanare Public Water System: As the receiver for the Lanare Public Water system, we have no objections to this project since it does not appear the project will require potable water. If the project requires potable water for any purpose from the Lanare Public Water System, the property owner would be subject to a commercial/business flat rate plus excess usage, if any. The property is currently being serviced by the Lanare Public Water System as a residential property.

The following agencies reviewed this application and returned “no comments” or “no concerns”: Table Mountain Rancheria; State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

No other comments specific to land use compatibility were expressed by reviewing Agencies or Departments.

Analysis:

This proposal entails the establishment of a new wireless communications facility consisting of a 104-foot monopole, an equipment shelter, propane standby generator, and six-foot chain-link fence in a 50-foot by 50-foot lease area. Aesthetics is typically the concern associated with this type of use because of the height of towers which are used to support communication antennas. The visibility of a tower is a function of its height, design, and its exposure to neighbors and the general public. The zoning in the area of this project is a mixture of uses, with parcels zoned for commercial uses to the north, industrial uses to the west, and agricultural uses to the east and south. There is also residential zoning along the north side of Mount Whitney Avenue (which is approximately 150 feet north of the subject parcel). The maximum allowable building heights in these districts are 75 feet for the industrial area and 35 feet for commercial, agricultural and residential. The proposed tower would be the tallest structure in this area. However, Mount Whitney Avenue is lined with telephone and utility poles and the lease area is more than 350 feet south of the road. Review of the Applicant's photo-simulation of the view from Mount Whitney suggests that, due to this distance, the tower will appear to be of similar height as the surrounding utility poles. The slim, monopole design also appears similar to the existing utility poles, further allowing the proposed tower to blend in.

Garfield Avenue is similarly lined with utility poles, reducing the visual impact. However, persons traveling down Garfield may pass within 100 feet of the tower. The intersection is heavily developed and the equipment for the tower will be screened by slats in the chain-link fence.

Beyond the mixed zoning in the immediate area of the parcel, land is generally zoned for exclusive agricultural uses. Most parcels are large farming units dedicated entirely to the production of field crops. These parcels, generally south of Mount Whitney Avenue, are restricted by a Williamson Act Contract. The General Plan does not identify Mount Whitney Avenue or South Garfield Avenue as Scenic Drives or Landscaped Drives and therefore the addition of the tower will not interfere with the public's enjoyment of such resources.

Another concern regarding surrounding parcels is the use of light and additional sound from the project. Unless required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), no lighting will be placed on the tower. A small, shielded light will be placed at the equipment shelter, which will be motion activated. A mitigation measure requiring that this light be pointed downward and not at neighboring properties or the public road ensures that there will be less than significant impacts from lighting.

The propane generator will be operated once per week for approximately 15 minutes to ensure proper function and in the case of a power outage or disaster. Testing will occur only on weekdays between 8:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. In consideration of this limited use, staff had no concerns with an increase to the local noise levels in the area of the tower.

This parcel is located in an area which is moderately sensitive to archeological finds. In compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 52, this project was routed to two Native American Tribes, both of which declined to engage in consultation regarding resources on this property. The total area of disturbance is limited to the 2,500 square-foot lease area and the new 20-foot-wide access driveway. Staff has placed a mitigation measure on the project which requires the Applicant to follow certain procedures if cultural resources are discovered.

Based on the above information and with compliance to the Mitigation Measures identified in Exhibit 1, staff believes the proposal will not have an adverse effect upon surrounding properties.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

See recommended Conditions of Approval attached as Exhibit 1.

Conclusion:

Finding 3 can be made.

Finding 4: *That the proposed development is consistent with the General Plan.*

Relevant Policies:	Consistency/Considerations:
Policy PF-J.4: The County shall require compliance with the Wireless Communication Guidelines for siting of communication towers in unincorporated areas of the County.	Consistent – See discussion under “Analysis”

Reviewing Agency Comments:

Policy Planning Section of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning: The property is designated as Agricultural in the Lanare Community Plan. The application proposed to allow a 104-foot wireless telecommunications monopole in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District. The Public Facilities Element of the General Plan lists a policy which seeks to facilitate efficient provisions of necessary services and facilities, and to minimize the impacts on surrounding land uses (PF-J.4, see above for text).

No other comments specific to General Plan Policy were expressed by reviewing Agencies or Departments.

Analysis:

The Wireless Communication Guidelines address several concerns with cell towers, including: site placement, co-location opportunities, and alternative site locations. The Applicant has indicated that this tower will serve 366 living units in the community of Lanare. Existing and Proposed Coverage Maps show that approval of this tower will improve signal in this area from Outdoor Service only to in-building and/or in-transit levels of service. This tower will also eliminate several areas where no service was indicated. As part of the project design, AT&T’s engineer identified a search ring of locations which could provide service to those 366 living units. The nearest existing tower to this search ring was in Riverdale, which is more than two miles outside the search ring. Therefore, co-location was not an option that would meet the Applicant’s need.

The support statement for this application notes that the proposed facility has been designed in a manner that will structurally accommodate additional antennas and future co-location. Additional ground space is available within the lease area for at least one future carrier. Staff review of the proposed floorplan shows the proposed AT&T equipment shelter is located east of the proposed tower. A similarly-sized equipment shelter could be placed north of the tower without exceeding the footprint of the proposed lease area. The site plan (Page A-4.1) indicates that the tower will be structurally engineered for at least two additional wireless carriers.

The proposed location of the lease area is near the rear of the subject parcel; however, this location places it near the edge of a field on the adjacent parcel. While the wireless guidelines call for a tower to be placed either adjacent to an existing building or adjacent to a field, this tower benefits from its location near the rear of the parcel because it reduces the visibility from Mount Whitney Avenue. Agricultural operations on nearby parcels will not be impacted by the location because it is adjacent to the fields on the neighboring parcel.

Based on these factors, the proposed wireless communications facility is consistent with the General Plan.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

See recommended Conditions of Approval attached as Exhibit 1.

Conclusion:

Finding 4 can be made.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A letter of opposition which was signed by 48 members of the Community was submitted on August 8, 2017. This letter identified concerns that the telecommunications antenna is not necessary and increases the chance of children in the community developing cancers and disease as a result of the radio waves.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the factors cited in the analysis, staff believes the required Findings for granting the Unclassified Conditional Use Permit can be made. Staff therefore recommends approval of Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 3567, subject to the recommended Conditions.

PLANNING COMMISSION MOTIONS:

Recommended Motion (Approval Action)

- Move to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study Application No. 7261; and
- Move to determine the required Findings can be made and move to approve Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 3567 subject to the Mitigation Measures, Conditions of Approval and Project Notes listed in Exhibit 1; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action.

Alternative Motion (Denial Action)

- Move to determine that the required Findings cannot be made (state basis for not making the Findings) and move to deny Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 3567; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action.

Mitigation Measures, recommended Conditions of Approval and Project Notes:

See attached Exhibit 1.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
Initial Study Application No. 7261/Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3567
(Including Conditions of Approval and Project Notes)

Mitigation Measures					
Mitigation Measure No.*	Impact	Mitigation Measure Language	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Time Span
1*	Cultural Resources	In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activity, all work shall be halted in the area of the find. An Archeologist shall be called to evaluate the findings and make any necessary mitigation recommendations. If human remains are unearthed during ground-disturbing activity, no further disturbance is to occur until the Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition. All normal evidence procedures should be followed by photos, reports, video, etc. If such remains are determined to be Native American, the Sheriff-Coroner must notify the Native American Commission within 24 hours.	Applicant	Applicant/Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning	During ground-disturbing activities
Conditions of Approval					
1.	Development of the property shall be in accordance with the Site Plan, Floor Plans, Elevations and Operational Statement approved by the Commission.				
2.	The maximum number of antennas allowed on the tower shall be determined according to wind load calculations as approved by the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning.				
3.	Prior to the issuance of permits, evidence shall be submitted showing provisions have been made to accommodate co-location, such as provision for co-location in signed lease agreement, and additional area within lease area for co-location of equipment, or other information that demonstrates the facility shall make itself available for co-location.				
4..	The approval shall expire in the event the use of the antennas/microwave dishes ceases for a period in excess of two years. At such time, the antennas/microwave dishes and related facilities shall be removed and the lease area shall be restored as nearly as practical to its original condition.				
5.	The Applicant shall file a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration [Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Form 7460-1] with the Western Regional Office of the FAA in conjunction with this proposal. The requirements for filing with the FAA for proposed structures vary based on a number of factors: height, proximity to an airport, location, and frequencies emitted from the structure, etc. For more details, please reference Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 14 Part 77.9.				
6.	Ground equipment within the lease area shall be screened from view by landscaping, slatted chain-link fencing, or a solid wall.				

7.	Any proposed lighting shall be hooded and downturned so as not to shine on adjacent properties, reducing any potential impacts to a less than significant level.
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*MITIGATION MEASURE – Measure specifically applied to the project to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects identified in the environmental document. Conditions of Approval reference recommended Conditions for the project.

Project Notes	
The following Notes reference mandatory requirements of Fresno County or other Agencies and are provided as information to the project Applicant.	
1.	This Use Permit will become void unless there has been substantial development within two years of the effective date of approval.
2.	Plans, permits and inspections are required for all proposed structures, including, but not limited to, accessible elements and site development, based upon the codes in effect at the time of plan check submittal. Contact the Building and Safety Section of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning at (559) 600-4540 for permits and inspections.
3.	All proposed improvements related to the cell site operation will require permits. If the existing sheds and mobile home are not removed, a Director Review and Approval and permit will be required for the mobile home and permits will be required for the sheds. If the unpermitted structures are not permitted or removed prior to final inspection for the cell site building permits, a violation will be issued.
4.	A grading permit or voucher may be required for any grading proposed with this application.
5.	Facilities proposing to use and/or store hazardous materials and/or hazardous wastes shall meet the requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), Division 20, Chapter 6.95, and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. Any business that handles a hazardous material or hazardous waste may be required to submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan pursuant to the HSC, Division 20, Chapter 6.95 (http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/ or https://www.fresnocupa.com/). For more information, contact the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) at (559) 600-3271.
6.	All hazardous waste shall be handled in accordance with requirements set forth in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. This Division discusses proper labeling, storage and handling of hazardous wastes.
7.	Any work done within the right-of-way to construct a new driveway or improve an existing driveway will require and Encroachment Permit from the Road Maintenance and Operations Division.
8.	If not already present, ten-foot by ten-foot corner cutoffs should be improved for sight distance purposes at any exiting driveways.

LOCATION MAP

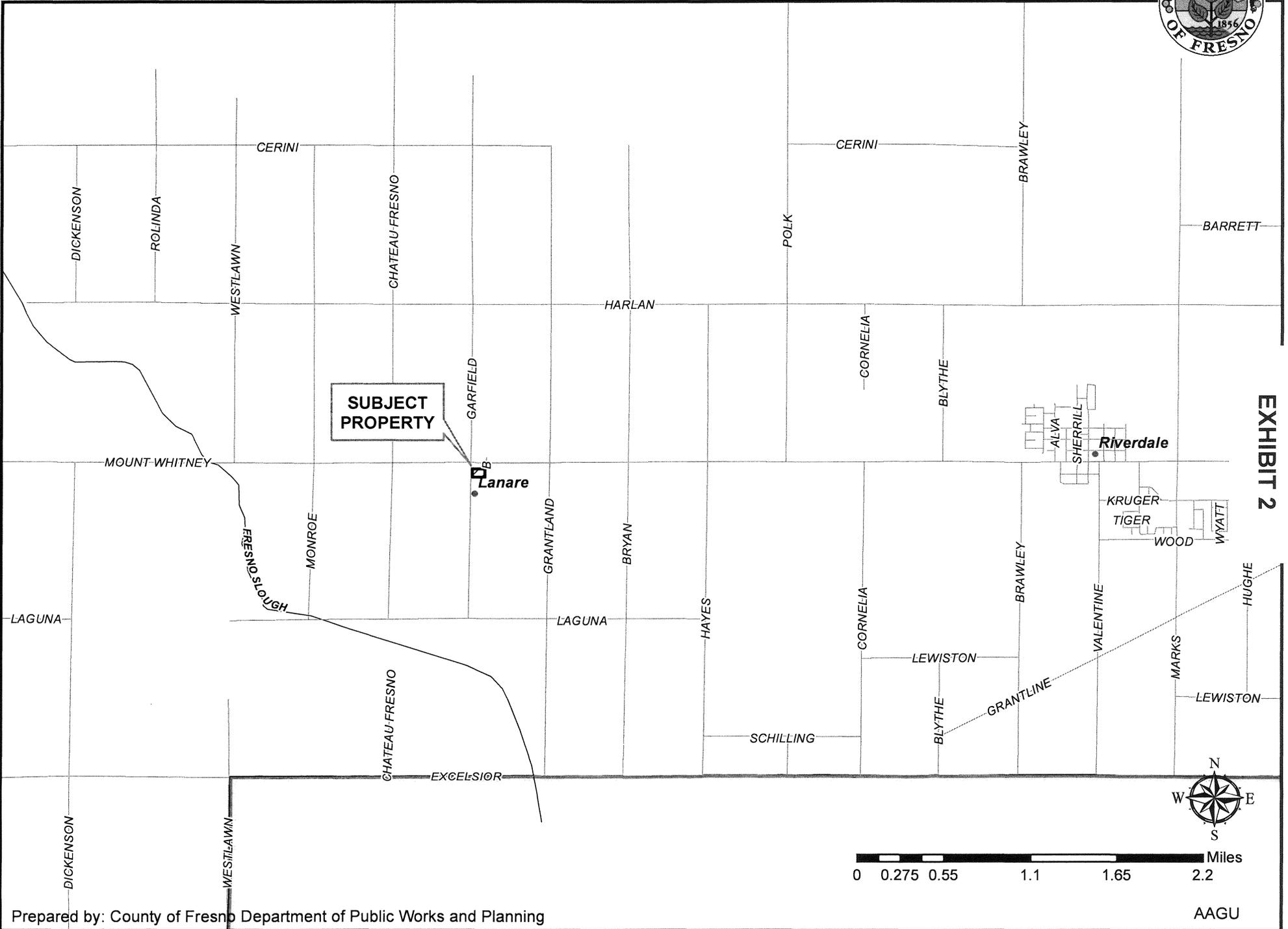


EXHIBIT 2

EXISTING ZONING MAP

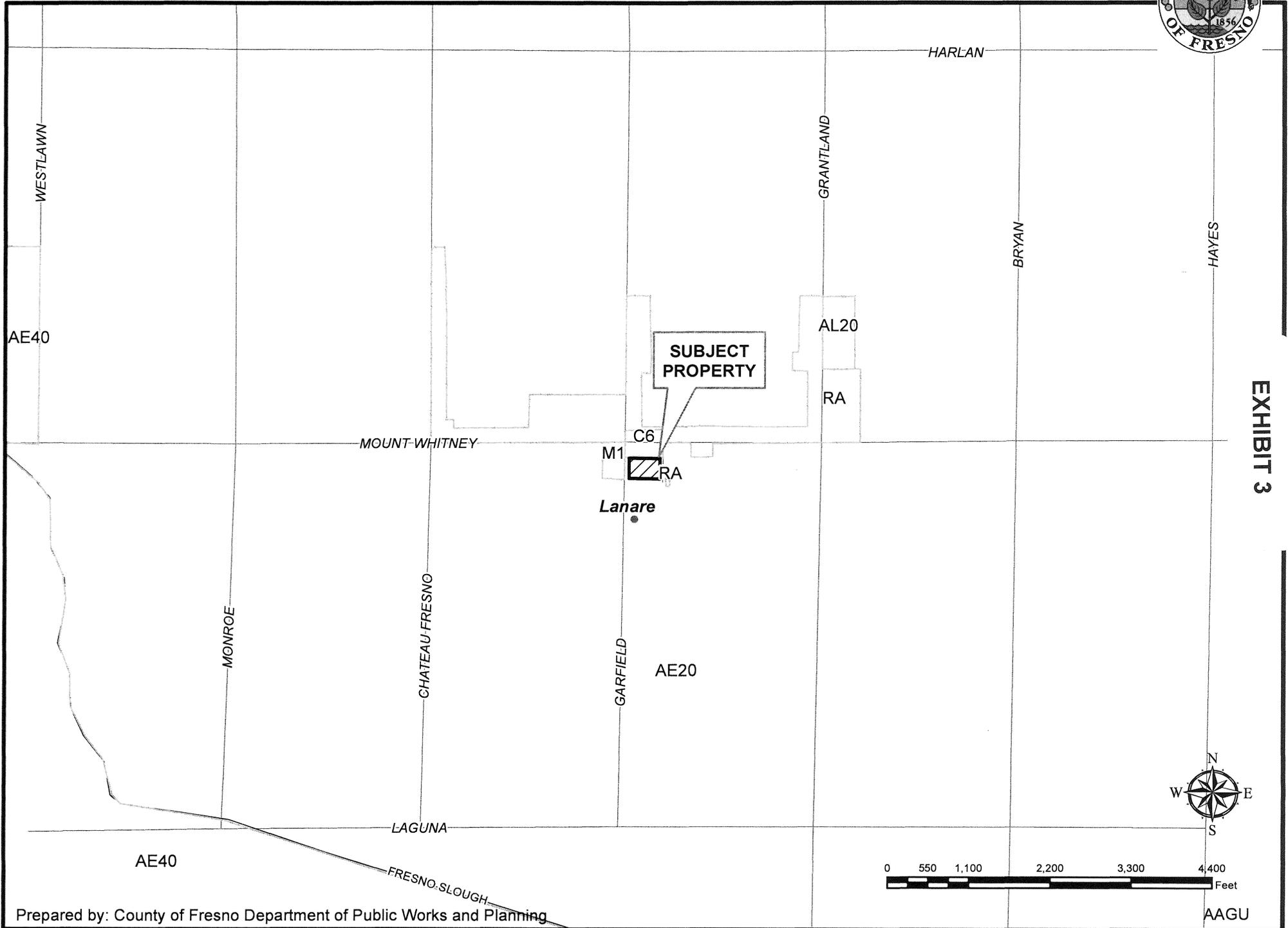
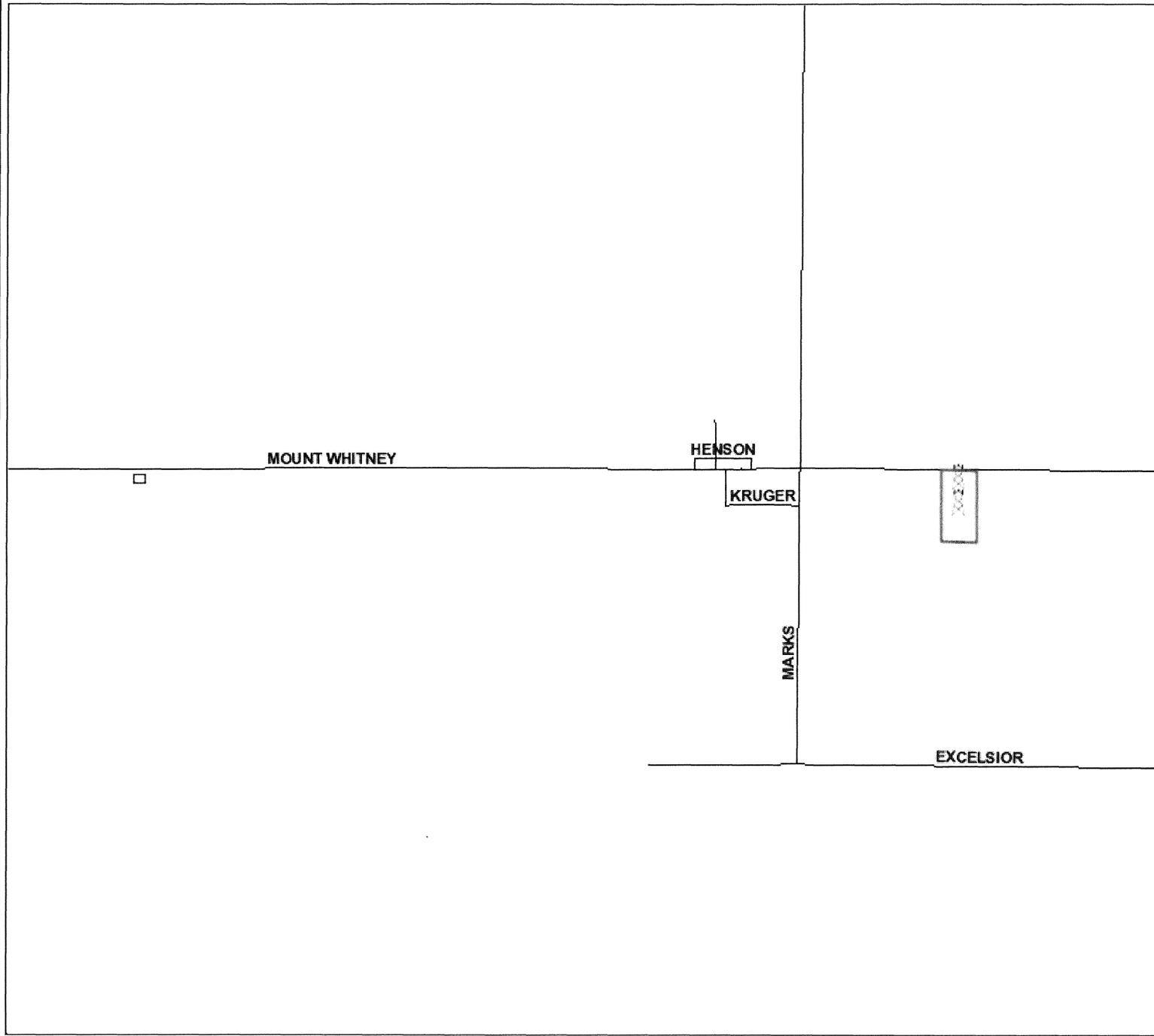
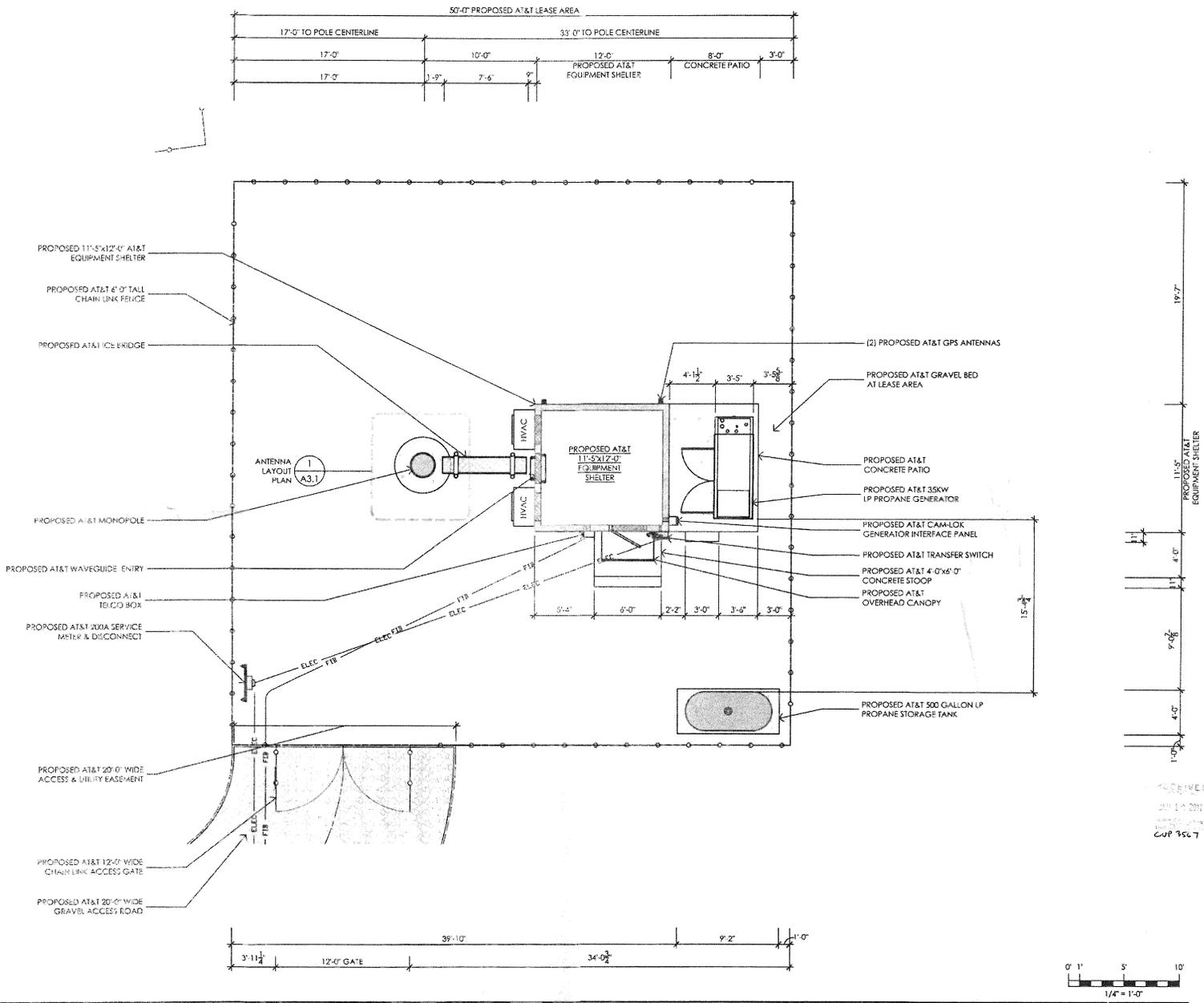


EXHIBIT 3





1 EQUIPMENT AREA PLAN
1/4" = 1'-0"

Issued For:
LANARE
21050 S. GARFIELD AVE.
RIVERDALE, CA 93656

PREPARED FOR
at&t
2400 Camino Ramon
San Ramon, California 94583

Vendor:
COMPLETE
Wireless Consulting, Inc.

AT&T SITE NO.: CVL03137

PROJECT NO.:
DRAWN BY:
CHECKED BY:

12/12/2011	DATE
11/14/2011	DATE

EXHIBIT 7

Licensee:

IF A QUALIFIED LAWYER HAS PERSONALLY REVIEWED THIS PLAN AND ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, TO ALL OTHERS GOODWILL.

NOTED:
MST ARCHITECTS
1500 River Park Drive
Sacramento, California 95815

SHEET TITLE:
EQUIPMENT AREA PLAN

SHEET NUMBER:
A-2

EXHIBIT 9

OPERATIONAL STATEMENT AT&T MOBILITY

Site Name: CVL03137 Lanare

Site Address: 21050 S. Garfield Avenue, Riverdale, CA 93657

APN: 053-360-06S

Nature of the operation--what do you propose to do? Describe in detail.

AT&T is proposing communications facility for this location. This is an unmanned, remotely monitored facility that operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, to provide high speed broadband internet to this underserved area of Fresno County.

Included as part of this wireless facility will be the following:

50'x50' Fenced, secured lease area including:

104' monopole with (3) Antenna sectors with (4) antennas per sector

21 Remote Radio Heads

11'-5" x 12'-0" Equipment Shelter

500-gallon Propane standby generator

6' chain link fence with 12' access gate.

Operational time limits:

This unmanned facility will provide service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Number of customers or visitors:

The facility will not be open for visitors or customers.

Number of employees:

The site is an unmanned facility. A service technician will visit the site on an average of once per month for routine maintenance. Because the wireless facility will be unmanned, there will be no regular hours of operation and no impacts to existing local traffic patterns. No water or sanitation services will be required.

Service and delivery vehicles:

This site will have a technician visit an average of once a month for maintenance purposes.

Access to the site:

The proposed facility will be accessed from South Garfield Avenue.

Number of parking spaces for employees, customers, and service/delivery vehicles.

The site is an unmanned facility. A service technician will visit the site on an average of once per month for routine maintenance and he or she may pull directly into the compound. Because the wireless facility will be unmanned, there will be no regular hours of operation and no impacts to existing local traffic patterns. No water or sanitation services will be required.

Are any goods to be sold on-site?

No. Not applicable.

If so, are these goods grown or produced on-site or at some other location? N/A.

What equipment is used?

Wireless telecommunications related equipment and a standby generator will be installed at the project.

What supplies or materials are used and how are they stored?

Not applicable.

Does the use cause an unsightly appearance? Noise? Glare? Dust? Odor?

Please review the site plans and photo simulations regarding project appearance.

The only two sources of sound associated with the proposed facility will be: 1) air conditioners that cool the equipment shelter, and 2) the standby generator, which will be operated for an average of 15 min minutes twice a month for maintenance purposes. The generator will be utilized during power outages. Neither of these sources of sound will exceed the acceptable noise levels for the zoning designation.

There are no sources of glare, dust, or odor associated with the operations of the project.

List any solid or liquid wastes to be produced.

Not applicable.

Estimated volume of water to be used (gallons per day).

Not applicable.

Describe any proposed advertising including size, appearance, and placement.

Not applicable.

Will existing buildings be used or will new buildings be constructed?

A new 104' monopole will be constructed at the location. As well as a prefabricated equipment shelter will be installed inside the lease area.

Explain which buildings or what portion of buildings will be used in the operation.

An equipment shelter will be used to house technology equipment at this location.

Will any outdoor lighting or an outdoor sound amplification system be used?

No outdoor lighting or sound amplification will be used.

Landscaping or fencing proposed?

A 6' tall security fence will surround the entire 50' x 50' proposed project lease area.

Any other information that will provide a clear understanding of the project or operation.

Please review project drawings, project support statement, photo-simulations, and coverage maps.

Identify all Owners, Officers and/or Board Members for each application submitted; this may be accomplished by submitting a cover letter in addition to the information provided on the signed application forms.

AT&T Mobility



EXHIBIT 10

County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- APPLICANT:** AT&T Mobility c/o Complete Wireless Consulting
- APPLICATION NOS.:** Initial Study Application No. 7261 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3567
- DESCRIPTION:** Allow an unmanned telecommunications facility consisting of a 104-foot-tall monopole tower with 12 panel antennas and related ground equipment including a propane backup generator within a 2,500 square-foot (50 feet by 50 feet) lease area enclosed by a six-foot-tall chain-link fence with a 12-foot-wide gate, on a 2.70-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.
- LOCATION:** The subject parcel is located on South Garfield Avenue approximately 400 feet south of its intersection with West Mount Whitney Avenue, within the unincorporated community of Lanare (SUP. DIST. 4) (APN 053-360-06S) (21050 South Garfield Avenue).

I. AESTHETICS

- A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; or
- B. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway; or
- C. Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project site is located on a residential parcel and bordered to the north and east by other single-family residences. The surrounding area is characterized by large agricultural parcels with few residential dwellings, however there are several parcels adjacent to the subject parcel to the north and west, which are zoned for General Commercial and Light Manufacturing Uses. There is a convenience store and gas station located on the northeast corner of Mount Whitney and Garfield Avenues, approximately 475 feet north of the proposed tower site. The applicants Project Support Statement indicates that the 104-foot height of the proposed tower is required to meet the desired coverage area objective.

No scenic vistas, scenic resources, or historic buildings were identified in the analysis. The subject parcel is not near a designated scenic highway. The proposed tower will be a 104-foot tall slim line monopole in design and will be set back approximately 115 feet from the roadway. Additionally, a condition of approval shall be included requiring that ground equipment within the lease area shall be screened from view either by landscaping or behind slatted chain link fencing or a solid wall.

- D. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

One shielded motion sensor light adjacent to the door of the equipment shelter at the base of the proposed tower is indicated in the applicant's project support statement. No lights will be placed on the proposed tower unless required by the FAA. A Condition of Approval shall be included requiring that any lighting be hooded and downturned so as not to shine on adjacent properties, reducing any potential impacts to a less than significant level.

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

- A. Would the project convert prime or unique farmlands or farmland of statewide importance to non-agricultural use?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The subject parcel is located on lands classified by the 2012 Fresno County Important Farmland map as Farmland of Statewide Importance. The location of the proposed lease area is in the southeast corner of the subject parcel adjacent to the South Trinity Avenue alignment to minimize any potential disruption of agricultural production.

- B. Would the project conflict with existing agricultural zoning or Williamson Act Contracts?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The subject parcel not restricted under Williamson Act contract, nor is it zoned as forestland, timberland, or for timberland production. As the proposed lease area is limited in size to 2,500 square feet, the project will not result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. The Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office reviewed the proposal and expressed no concerns.

- C. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for or cause rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production; or

- D. Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or

- E. Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not zoned for Timberland Production, or near any sites so zoned. The application does not propose any rezoning and proposes no changes to the environment that could result in the conversion of farmland or forestland to non-agricultural or non-forest use. The footprint of the project is a 50-foot by 50-foot lease area located on the edge of agricultural use on the property.

III. AIR QUALITY

- A. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan; or
- B. Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation; or
- C. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under a Federal or State ambient air quality standard; or
- D. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- E. Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District (Air District) reviewed this proposal and expressed no concerns with the project. The project will not create objectionable odors affecting people on or near the subject property. The area consists of large agricultural parcels with few residences. The nearest residence is located approximately one mile west of the proposed project site.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any candidate, sensitive, or special-status species?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The subject parcel is located in an agricultural area and has been previously disturbed, as said property has been historically utilized for agricultural cultivation. Neighboring properties around the project area have been historically utilized for agricultural cultivation and, therefore, have also been previously disturbed. This proposal was referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service (USFWS) for review and comments, and neither agency commented that the project would have an adverse effect upon sensitive species or sensitive natural communities.

- B. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); or
- C. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally-protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means; or
- D. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are no riparian habitats, sensitive natural communities, or wetlands within the project site. This project proposal was referred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which did not identify any concerns. This project proposal was also referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), which did not identify any concerns. No impacts were identified, relating to: any candidate, sensitive, or special status species; any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS, or Federally-protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or use of native wildlife nursery sites.

- E. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- F. Would the project Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are no local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources in the area and there are no local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans in the area.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

- A. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5; or

- B. Would the project cause of substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or
- C. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or
- D. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries; or
- E. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The subject property and surrounding area have been historically used and are currently used for agricultural purposes, and have been previously disturbed. During ground disturbing activities, the following mitigation has been included to address the possibility of cultural resource finds:

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. *In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, all work shall be halted in the area of the find. An Archeologist should be called to evaluate the findings and make any necessary mitigation recommendations. If human remains are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, no further disturbance is to occur until the Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition. All normal evidence procedures should be followed by photos, reports, video, etc. If such remains are determined to be Native American, the Sheriff-Coroner must notify the Native American Commission within 24 hours.*

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- A. Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury or death involving:
 1. Rupture of a known earthquake; or
 2. Strong seismic ground shaking; or
 3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or
 4. Landslides?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcel is not located along a known fault line according to the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act maps. The project site is not

located in an area at risk of Seismic Hazard or Landslide Hazards per Figures 9-5 and 9-6 of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR).

- B. Would the project result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project site is not located in an area at risk of erosion according to Figure 7.3 of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report. Grading activities could result in changes in topography and therefore potentially increase surface runoff at the project site; however, due to the limited size of the project area, the proposal is not expected to result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil. The Development Engineering Section of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, indicated that a grading permit or voucher would be required for any grading proposed with this project.

- C. Would the project result in on-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is not located in an area of steep slopes per Figure 7-2 (FCGPBR), nor at risk of seismic hazards, per discussion above. The project was reviewed by the Water/Geology/Natural Resources Section, which did not express any concerns with the application.

- D. Would the project be located on expansive soils, creating substantial risks to life or property?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is not located in an area of expansive soils, per Figure 7-1 (FCGPBR).

- E. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative disposal systems where sewers are not available for wastewater disposal?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposal is for an unmanned cell-phone tower and no septic tanks or other sanitary facilities are proposed as part of this project.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- A. Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or
- B. Would the project conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Comments received from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District expressed no concerns, supporting the determination that either the project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- A. Would the project create a significant public hazard through routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials; or
- B. Would the project create a significant public hazard involving accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The proposed facility will utilize a propane standby generator with a 500-gallon fuel storage tank on site. Facilities proposing to use and/or store hazardous materials and/or hazardous wastes shall meet the requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), Division 20, Chapter 6.95, and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. Any business that handles a hazardous material or hazardous waste may be required to submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan pursuant to the HSC, Division 20, Chapter 6.95.

- C. Would the project create hazardous emissions or utilize hazardous materials, substances or waste within one quarter-mile of a school?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are no schools located within one quarter-mile of the subject property.

- D. Would the project be located on a hazardous materials site?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Per review of the project area using the United States Environmental Protection Agency's NEPAAssist, no hazardous materials sites are located within the boundaries of the subject parcel.

- E. Would a project located within an airport land use plan or, absent such a plan, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area; or
- F. Would a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located within an Airport Land Use Plan, however the project site is located approximately four and one-quarter miles northeast of Lemoore Naval Air Station. NAS Lemoore has reviewed this application and requested that the project proposal be evaluated through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Obstruction Evaluation/ Airport Airspace Analysis (OEAAA) process. A condition of approval shall be placed on this application requiring that the project be evaluated by the FAA, according to the OEAAA process.

- G. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted Emergency Response Plan or Emergency Evacuation Plan; or
- H. Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site would not physically interfere with an adopted Emergency Response Plan; additionally the subject parcel is not near an urbanized area nor is it within a wildland area.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- A. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise degrade water quality; or
- B. Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge so that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table; or
- C. Would the project substantially alter existing drainage patterns, including alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site; or
- D. Would the project substantially alter existing drainage patterns, including alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site; or
- E. Would the project create or contribute run-off which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted run-off; or
- F. Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject application does not include provisions for the use of water on site, and no such use is anticipated. The site will be generally unmanned, excepting a monthly visit by a technician, and no sanitary facilities are required. Project runoff will be retained on site or disposed of per County standards.

G. Would the project place housing within a 100-year floodplain?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No housing is proposed with this application.

H. Would the project place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to FEMA FIRM Panel 2825H, the parcel is not subject to flooding from the one-percent-chance storm event.

I. Would the project expose persons or structures to levee or dam failure; or

J. Would the project cause inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located in an area at risk of dam failure flood inundation as defined by Figure 9-8 (FCGPBR), nor is the site prone to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING

A. Will the project physically divide an established community?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcel is already improved with a single-family residence; the project site will be contained entirely within the subject parcel and will not physically divide an established community.

B. Will the project conflict with any Land Use Plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The applicant submitted Project Support Statement indicates that AT&T is proposing this project in order to provide internet service to approximately 366 dwelling units within the Underserved Community of Lanare. The Lanare Community Service District has reviewed this proposal and offered no concerns or objections to the project. The subject property is designated Agriculture in the Fresno County General Plan and is located in an area of agricultural production. The parcel is zoned AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) and is not restricted under Williamson Act, Agricultural Land Conservation Contract. The subject parcel is located within the Lanare Community Services District for the Provision of Water. As the project does not propose to utilize any potable water, the Lanare Community Services District had no concerns with or objections to this proposal with regard to water use.

- C. Will the project conflict with any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located in an area subject to a Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

- A. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource; or
- B. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site designated on a General Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No mineral resource impacts were identified in the project analysis. The project site is not located in a mineral resources area identified in Figure 7-7 (FCGPBR).

XII. NOISE

- A. Would the project result in exposure of people to severe noise levels; or
- B. Would the project result in exposure of people to or generate excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels; or
- C. Would the project cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not generate severe noise levels or excessive vibration. There will be no permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.

- D. Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels; or
- E. Would the project expose people to excessive noise levels associated with a location near an airport or a private airstrip; or
- F. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to the applicant, the subject parcel is located approximately four miles north of Westside Field Station Airstrip; however, staff could not verify the location of this airstrip. The subject parcel is not located in an airport review area and therefore the Airport Land Use Commission did not review it; However, the subject parcel is located approximately four and one quarter-miles northeast of Lemoore Naval Air Station (NAS). Lemoore NAS has requested that the project be reviewed by the FAA under the OEAAA process. See comments under Section VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

- A. Would the project induce substantial population growth either directly or indirectly; or
- B. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing; or
- C. Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of housing elsewhere?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No housing is proposed with this application. The project is an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility requiring no on-site employees. No housing or people will be displaced as a result of the project.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

- A. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered public facilities in the following areas:
 - 1. Fire protection; or
 - 2. Police protection; or
 - 3. Schools; or
 - 4. Parks; or
 - 5. Other public facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not result in the need for additional public services. The subject application was specifically reviewed by the Fresno County Fire Protection District and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, both of which had no concerns regarding impacts on public services. There are no schools or parks within the project site vicinity.

XV. RECREATION

- A. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks; or
- B. Would the project require the construction of or expansion of recreational facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No impacts on the use of existing parks or recreational resources were identified in the project analysis. This project proposes an unmanned telecommunications facility.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

- A. Would the project conflict with any applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation; or
- B. Would the project conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demands measures?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT:

After construction, the tower will be unmanned. Maintenance workers will access the site from a proposed 20-foot-wide joint access and utility easement adjacent to South Garfield Avenue. It will not conflict with any plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system or conflict with any congestion management program. The project will add one round trip per month, which is a less-than-significant increase to traffic on the roads.

- C. Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not within the review zone of any airport however, Lemoore Naval Air Station is located approximately four and one-quarter miles southwest of the project site. Lemoore NAS reviewed this proposal, (see comments under Section VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials).

- D. Would the project substantially increase traffic hazards due to design features; or

- E. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access; or
- F. Would the project conflict with adopted plans, policies or programs regarding public transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not interfere with emergency access or any adopted plans, policies or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

- A. Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements; or
- B. Would the project require construction of or the expansion of new water or wastewater treatment facilities; or
- C. Would the project require or result in the construction or expansion of new storm water drainage facilities; or
- D. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed; or
- E. Would the project result in a determination of inadequate wastewater treatment capacity to serve project demand; or
- F. Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity; or
- G. Would the project comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Once construction has been completed, the project will use no water, produce no liquid or solid waste, and will have no impact on existing utilities.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- A. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION
INCORPORATED:

No impacts on biological resources were identified in the analysis. With incorporation of the Mitigation Measure indicated in Section V, any impacts on cultural resources from the project will be less than significant.

- B. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The only cumulatively considerable impacts identified in the analysis were related to Aesthetics and Cultural Resources. These impacts have been reduced to less than significant with the Mitigation Measures discussed in Sections I and V.

- C. Does the project have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No substantial impacts on human beings, either directly or indirectly, were identified in the project analysis.

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3567, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to Agriculture, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, or Utilities and Service Systems.

Potential impacts related to Aesthetics, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use Planning, Noise, and Transportation/Traffic have been determined to be less than significant.

Potential impacts relating to Cultural Resources have been determined to be less than significant with the included Mitigation Measures.

A Mitigated Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Street Level, located on the southeast corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.

JS

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EXHIBIT 11

File original and one copy with: Fresno County Clerk 2221 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721		Space Below For County Clerk Only. CLK-2046.00 E04-73 R00-00		
Agency File No: IS 7261		LOCAL AGENCY PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION		County Clerk File No: E-
Responsible Agency (Name): Fresno County	Address (Street and P.O. Box): 2220 Tulare St. Sixth Floor		City: Fresno	Zip Code: 93721
Agency Contact Person (Name and Title): Christina Monfette, Planner		Area Code: 559	Telephone Number: 600-4245	Extension: N/A
Applicant (Name): AT&T Mobility		Project Title: Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No.3567		
Project Description: Allow a 104-foot-tall monopole cellular tower and related facilities on a 2.70-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.				
Justification for Negative Declaration: Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3567, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to Agriculture, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, or Utilities and Service Systems. Potential impacts related to Aesthetics, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use Planning, Noise, and Transportation/Traffic have been determined to be less than significant. Potential impacts relating to Cultural Resources have been determined to be less than significant with the included Mitigation Measures.				
FINDING: The proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment.				
Newspaper and Date of Publication: Fresno Business Journal – May 17, 2017			Review Date Deadline: Planning Commission – August 24, 2017	
Date:	Type or Print Signature: Chris Motta Principal Planner		Submitted by (Signature): Christina Monfette Planner	

State 15083, 15085

County Clerk File No.: _____

LOCAL AGENCY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EXHIBIT 12

RECEIVED ^{by CMM}
COUNTY OF FRESNO Salvador Cortes
Susana Cortes
AUG 08 2017 7383 W Mt. Whitney Ave
Riverdale, CA 93656
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION (559) 867-4648
CUP 3567

County of Fresno
Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services Division
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor
Fresno, California 93721 -2104
CUP APPLICATION NO. 3567

To Whom It May Concern,

Lanare is a poor community just a few miles west of Riverdale, California. A few months ago the people living in the community received a notification from Fresno County informing us that a telecommunications monopole tower with twelve panel antennas was going to be placed approximately 400 ft. south of its intersection with West Mount Whitney Avenue, in the community of Lanare. The antenna will be placed in an area with many households, where children and seniors live, and are situated less than 400 meters away from the antenna. The community is concerned of the negative effects that this antenna may bring to the people living in this area. We are especially concerned for the children and seniors who are more vulnerable to health issues.

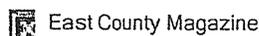
These antennas send and receive electromagnetic radiation and there is a high concentration of energy in these sites. Some of the members of the community have researched and found that the radiation from these communication antennas bring multiple health problems to the people living in a five-mile range. Some of the health factors concerned with telecommunication antennas are cancer, headaches, fatigue, memory loss, sleep disorders, leukemia, cardiac disorders, damage to cell tissue and DNA, miscarriage, Alzheimer's disease and many others serious illnesses. These health problems mostly affect children and seniors. Children are even more vulnerable because they are in a growing stage. Children can't block radiation because they have thinner skulls, they have a more sensitive nervous system, their immune system is not very strong, and can have cell and DNA damage.

We believe that in the Lanare community a telecommunications antenna is not necessary, especially since we are lacking other more important necessities. For example, in Lanare we do not have lights on the streets which are necessary for residents who have the need to walk at night to go to the store or other facilities located in the community because many people do not have a car for transportation. Our community has been asking for sidewalks, and a sewer system because all of our houses have septic tanks that in the long term can bring many problems. Our tap water is contaminated with arsenic which is not good for drinking and that is why every household in Lanare receives, from the state, a few gallons of drinkable water every month.

As you can see our community has more important needs than a telecommunications antenna. These kind of antennas need to be at least five to seven miles away from communities or towns where the radiation emitted from them may not cause health issues to the population. Many residents in the Lanare community do not agree with having this telecommunications monopole tower within the community. This is the reason we are sending this letter and a journal with signatures from many members of the Lanare community asking to relocate the telecommunications antenna at least five miles away from our community. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

The Lanare Community



Published on *East County Magazine* (<http://www.eastcountymagazine.org>)

Home > DANGERS OF LIVING NEAR CELL PHONE TOWERS RAISED

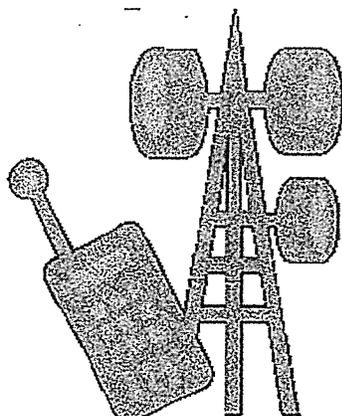
DANGERS OF LIVING NEAR CELL PHONE TOWERS RAISED

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November 2008 Articles

La Mesa Council holds hearing Nov. 5 on proposal to erect cell phone tower in Lake Murray area

By Miriam Raftery



When Mom asked me to look into possible health hazards posed by cell phone panel antennas that a church in her neighborhood wants to put up, I expected to find reassuring facts to allay Mom's concerns. Instead, I found deeply disturbing data that makes me wonder why the public is not being informed about health risks—and why our government seems intent on covering up troubling truths.

Cell phone companies and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration assert that cell phone towers don't pose health risks to the public. Some studies support this assertion, but other studies suggest just the opposite.

Harvard-trained Dr. Andrew Weil at the University of Arizona's medical center recently observed, "In January 2008, the National Research Council (NRC), an arm of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, issued a report saying that we simply don't know enough about the potential health risks of long-term exposure to RF energy from cell phones themselves, cell towers, television towers, and other components of our communications system. The scientists who prepared the report emphasized, in particular, the unknown risks to the health of children, pregnant women, and fetuses as well as of workers whose jobs entail high exposure to RF (radiofrequency) energy....Because so much of cell phone technology is new and evolving, we don't have data on the consequences of 10, 20 or 30 years worth of exposure to the RF energy they emit," Weil concluded. The report called for long-term safety studies on all wireless devices including cell phones, computers, and cell phone towers.

A 2006 report issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) offered some reassurance and found no scientific evidence that radiofrequency signals from cell towers cause adverse health effects. The report noted that up to five times more of the RF signals from FM radio and television (than from cell towers) are absorbed by the body with no known adverse effects on health in the more than 50 years that radio and TV broadcast stations have been operating.

But an Australian study found that children living near TV and FM broadcast towers, which emit similar radiation to cell towers, developed leukemia at three times the rate of children living over seven miles away.

If you live within a quarter mile of a cell phone antenna or tower, you may be at risk of serious harm to your health, according to a German study cited at www.EMF-Health.com, a site devoted to exposing hazards associated with electromagnetic frequencies from cell phone towers and other sources.

Cancer rates more than tripled among people living within 400 meters of cell phone towers or antennas, a German study found. Those within 100 meters were exposed to radiation at 100 times normal levels. An Israeli study found risk of cancer quadrupled among people living within 350 meters (1,148 feet) of a cell phone transmitter—and seven out of eight cancer victims were women. Both studies focused only on people who had lived at the same address for many years.

Other studies have found that levels of radiation emitted from cell phone towers can damage cell tissues and DNA, causing miscarriage, suppressing immune function, and causing other health problems.

Astoundingly, the federal government does not allow rejection of a cell phone tower based on health risks, according to a 2005 article. A Google search found no evidence that this situation has changed.

Yet over 1.9 million cell phone towers and antennae have been approved nationwide without federal studies to assure safety of those living nearby.

How many cell phone towers and antennas are in your neighborhood? Find out at www.antennasearch.com. I plugged in my address on Mt. Helix, hardly an urban stronghold, and was astounded to discover that there are 96 cell phone towers, 286 antennas and 2 proposals for new towers within four miles of my home!

So how about Mom's neighborhood, where an Evangelical church insists a new tower is needed? Mom gets perfectly fine cell phone reception, and so do the neighbors she's spoken with—not surprising since there are already 113 towers and 335 antennas within a four-mile radius.

Churches, schools, fire stations, and other buildings are increasingly erecting cell phone towers or antennas because cell phone companies are willing to pay rental fees of hundreds or even thousands of dollars a month—welcome infusions for cash-strapped budgets. But at what cost to the public's health? There are young children in Mom's neighborhood, less than one block from the proposed cell phone antenna site.

In Sweden, the government requires interventions to protect the public from electromagnetic frequencies. Why isn't the U.S. government paying attention to this potential risk to public safety?

If you wish to share your views on the T-Mobile proposed cell phone tower at 5777 Lake Murray Blvd. (near Marengo Avenue), the La Mesa City Council will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, November 5th at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at the La Mesa City Hall, 8130 Allison Ave., La Mesa.

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Source URL (modified on 06/17/2014 - 04:43):

http://www.eastcountymagazine.org/cell_phone_towers_238#comment-0

Health and Environmental Concerns Regarding Mobile Phone Base Stations (Cell Towers)

The current studies we have suggest both short-term and long-term health risks within 300-400 meters of a cell tower. Thus, great precautions should be taken to site cell towers away from the most vulnerable segments of the population, such as children.

This document summarizes the increasing recognition of the potential health risks of cell towers from governments and scientists worldwide. While the issue of health concerns is considered to be controversial, much of this controversy is manufactured by key stakeholders and industry lobbyists. There has been a body of scientific evidence on the dangers of microwave technologies, since a decade ago, and many governments are only beginning to take action.

1. Government Recognition of the Hazards

On April 2, 2009, the European Parliament overwhelmingly passed a resolution on "Health Concerns Associated with Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)". One of the resolutions is that the wireless telecommunications facilities should *not* be placed near schools, places of worship, retirement homes, and health care institutions. See <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2009-0216&format=XML&language=EN>

In 2009, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to seek federal legislation to overturn Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which takes away local government rights to refuse cell towers for health reasons. Since then, several other local governments in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oregon have passed similar resolutions. <https://www.cloutnow.org/localres/>

2. Outdated Safety Standards

Complying with international standards does *not* guarantee the actual safety of cell towers. Existing safety standards for cell towers are thousands of times above levels found in scientific research to cause biological effects. The current widely adopted international standard is that of ICNIRP (1998), which specifies power densities of 9000 mW/m² for 1800 MHz and 4500 mW/m² for 900 MHz. In contrast, recommendations based on scientific evidence from a decade ago, are thousands of times lower. Only a few countries have been moving towards these stricter limits, e.g., Liechtenstein (1 mW/m²) in 2008.

2001 Salzburg Resolution	1 mW/m ² (or 0.06 V/m)	http://www.salzburg.gv.at/celltower_e
2001 EU Parliament STOA 2001	0.100 mW/m ² (10 nW/cm ²)	
2002 Updated Salzburg Outdoor Limit	0.010 mW/m ² (0.06 V/m)	
2007 BioInitiative Report	1 mW/m ²	
2008 Building Biology (SBM-2008)	>1 mW/m ² is of extreme risk	http://www.baubiologie.de/downloads/zeitschriftueber_2008_englisch.pdf

Several studies suggest that a 300 to 400 meter minimal setback is required from a cell tower to avoid the risk of cancer and other health effects.

3. Appeals and Resolutions in the Last Decade

In the last decade, numerous scientific research papers, resolutions, and appeals have been published, expressing concern regarding low levels of electromagnetic radiation, such as from cell towers.

2011	The <i>Seletun Scientific Statement</i> (7 scientists in 5 countries), based on the 2009 International EMF Conference in Norway (http://emf2009.no/index.php/1293324), calls for reduced exposure limits from power line and telecommunications technologies, and reports findings of adverse effects down to 0.17 mW/m ² : http://electromagnetichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/The-Seletun-Scientific-Statement1.pdf
2010	B. Blake Levitt and Henry Lai published an extensive literature review in the Canadian journal, <i>Environmental Reviews</i> , which compiles many studies of low levels of non-ionizing radiation. http://www.madabahas.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Blake_Levitt-Henry_Lai.pdf An <i>Indian government panel</i> reports on the dangers of both cell towers and cell phones: http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_its-official-now-radiation-from-your-cell-phone-may-be-killing-you_1489258 http://www.dot.gov.in/miscellaneous/IMC%20Report/IMC%20Report.pdf
2009	<i>The Journal of Pathophysiology</i> , August 2009 issue, is dedicated to the Health and Environmental Concerns related to Electromagnetic Fields, and includes reports on the dangers of cell towers to human health and wildlife: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/legacy/broadbandgrants/comments/71189.pdf
2008	<i>Venice Resolution</i> http://www.icems.eu/resolution.htm
2007	The <i>BioInitiative Report</i> of 2007 compiles approximately 2,000 studies on the health effects of electromagnetic fields, including studies at nonthermal nonionizing levels considered "safe" by international safety standards. The <i>London Resolution</i> calls for outdoor RF limits of 0.06 V/m = 0.010 mW/m ² , based on the Salzburg 2002 precautionary limit. http://www.icems.eu/docs/resolutions/london_res.pdf
2006	The <i>Benevento Resolution</i> , 2006 http://www.icems.eu/benevento_resolution.htm
2005	The <i>International Association of Firefighters</i> (IAFF) petitioned for a health study on cell towers because firefighters were affected by disabling illnesses after the installations. http://www.iaff.org/hs/Facts/CellTowerFinal.asp The <i>Irish Doctors' Environmental Association</i> (IDEA) acknowledges increasing complaints from electromagnetic radiation. <i>Hofer Appeal</i> , <i>Lichtenfelser Appeal</i> , <i>Helsinki Appeal</i> , <i>Freienbacher Appells</i>
2004	<i>Bamberger appeal</i>
2002	The <i>Freiberger appeal</i> is signed by many German physicians concerned by the health effects of cell towers, cell phones, and DECT cordless phones http://www.powerwatch.org.uk/pdfs/20021019_englisch.pdf The <i>Catania Resolution</i> http://www.icems.eu/benevento_resolution.htm
2000	The Salzburg International Conference on Cell Tower Siting, Linking Science & Public Health, established biological effects at very low levels of wireless radiation, from which we have the <i>Salzburg Resolution</i> . http://www.salzburg.gv.at/celltower_e

4. Summary of the Scientific and Epidemiological Evidence

Two important reviews on cell tower studies include:

- Henry Lai and B. Blake Levitt's article in *Environmental Reviews* (2010). See "10. Studies on exposure to cell tower transmissions" in <http://www.magdabayns.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Blake-Levitt-Henry-Lai.pdf>
- Michael Kundi and Hans-Peter Hutter's article in the *Journal of Pathophysiology*, "Mobile phone base stations—Effects on wellbeing and health". http://www.ccst.us/projects/smart/documents/082009_Kundi_Mobile_Phone_Base_Station.pdf

The evidence falls into at least 4 categories, including in cancer epidemiological studies, survey studies on symptoms of residents near base stations, in vitro studies, and animal/plant studies.

A. Cancer

Cancer has been reported in close proximity of cell towers, e.g.,

- *Naila, Germany*: 3x new malignancies within 400 m after 5 years exposure (Eger, 2004)
 - http://www.emrpolicy.org/science/research/docs/eger_naila_2004.pdf
- *Netanya, Israel*: 4x cancer within 350 m (Wolf and Wolf, 2004)
- *UK*: 7 cancer clusters discovered around mobile phone masts (2007)

Other studies have found increased cancer from radio and TV broadcast towers. According to the Levitt/Lai review, cancers around broadcast towers include childhood leukemia, adult leukemia, and lymphoma clusters, elevated brain tumor incidence, and malignant melanoma.

- *Radio tower in Rome* (Michelozzi, 2002), and recent court-ordered Vatican radio tower study
- *Sutro Tower, San Francisco* (Cherry, 2000)
- *Sutton Coldfield TV Tower, Great Britain* (Dolk, 1997)
- *Australia TV Tower* (Bruce Hocking, 1996)

B. Other Health Symptoms

The WHO fact sheet claims "From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short- or long-term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF signals produced by base stations." However, this is questionable given that "10 out of 14 peer-reviewed scientific studies on people exposed to Mobile-Phone mast (cell-tower) radiation show adverse health effects." <http://www.mast-victims.org/index.php?content=who> Many studies reported increasing health symptoms in close proximity to mobile phone base stations (cell towers). For example, the following are some studies regarding the health symptoms:

- Santini, 2002 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12168254>
- Santini 2003 - http://www.emrpolicy.org/science/research/docs/santini_ebm_2003.pdf
- Navarro, 2003 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12168254>
- Abdel-Rassoul, 2007 - (Egypt) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16962663>
- Preece, 2007 - (Cyprus) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17259164>
- Bortkiewicz, 2004 - (Poland) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16962663>
- Rösli, 2004 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15031956>
- Zwamborn, 2003: Study by Dutch Technical Research Institute
- Oberfeld, 2004 (Spain)
- Eger, Jahn, 2009 (Germany) http://www.emrpolicy.org/science/research/docs/eger_selbitz_2009.pdf

See <http://www.powerwatch.org/uk/rf/masts.asp> and http://www.emrpolicy.org/science/research/fact_sheet.htm

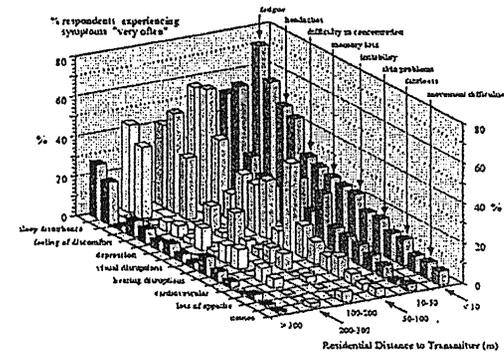


Image from http://www.magdabayns.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/05_HayasNCRERTV.pdf: Residents near a cellular phone base station in Spain (Santini)

C. In Vitro Studies and Animal/Plant Studies

Many of these symptoms (headaches, dizziness, fatigue, nausea, insomnia, memory loss, and difficulty concentrating) may actually have a biological basis. For example, microwave radiation is known to change neurotransmitter levels such as acetylcholine (Henry Lai), open the blood brain barrier (Allan Frey, Leif Salford, Oscar and Hawkins, and Albert and Kerns), cause neuronal death and memory loss in rats (Leif Salford, Henry Lai, Lukas H. Margaritis), cause calcium efflux in brain tissue (C.F. Blackman, Ross Adey), cause calcium efflux in animal hearts (Schwartz et al), create stress proteins (Martin Blank), increase production of histamines, cause DNA breaks (shown by ~11 studies), increase free radicals (shown by ~24 papers since 1997), and so on.

- In the *Journal of Pathophysiology*, the article "Electromagnetic fields stress living cells" by M. Blank and R. Goodman reports on the cellular stress response from electromagnetic fields, and the potential DNA breaks that could result.
- In the *Journal of Pathophysiology*, the article "Electromagnetic pollution from phone masts. Effects on wildlife" by Alfonso Balmori, reviews the literature which demonstrates adverse effects on birds, mammals, amphibians, insects, trees, and plants.

Some Additional Resources:

- <http://www.electromagnetichealth.org>
- <http://www.radiationresearch.org> and http://www.radiationresearch.org/pdfs/20061101_base_stations_health_concerns.pdf
- <http://www.icems.eu/>
- <http://www.fullsignalmovie.com/>
- <http://www.emrpolicy.org/> and <http://www.youtube.com/user/emrpolicyorg>
- http://www.antennafreeunion.org/info_research.htm
- <http://www.emfwise.com/distance.php>

What are the Dangers of Living Near Cell Phone Towers?

by www.SixWise.com

Over 190 million cell phones are in use in the United States, with users often scrambling to another room, building or street to get better reception. As consumers, it is frustrating when your cell phone reception gets dropped or is too garbled to hear. But beyond "Can you hear me now?" is another considerably more important question:

Are the cell towers and antennas popping up all over the country -- the very ones that we depend on for clear reception and a wide coverage area -- safe?

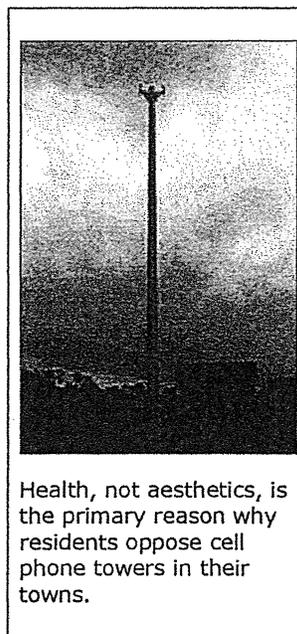
This may have been a moot issue in the past when the towers were sparse and limited to obscure cornfields and hilltops. But the number of these cell "sites," as they're called, has increased tenfold since 1994. Among the more than 175,000 cell sites in the United States are antennas on schools, churches, firehouses, cemeteries and national parks. There's even a cell tower near Old Faithful in Yellowstone.

"Don't Put That Tower Here"

"Our companies are always running into this conundrum, which is, 'We want cell phone service, but don't put that tower here.' When you're dealing with communications through the air, you have to have antennas and towers," said Joe Farren, a spokesman for CTIA-The Wireless Association, the industry's trade group.

Aesthetics aside, the primary reason most people don't want cell sites near their homes and communities is because they're afraid of the potential health effects.

Already, more than 500 cases have sprung up across the country in which people have tried to stop cell phone sites from being constructed, according to Washington attorney Ed Donohue, who represents several cell phone companies.



Health, not aesthetics, is the primary reason why residents oppose cell phone towers in their towns.

Most of the time, the cell phone companies win because, as it stands, federal law does not allow rejection of a tower based on health risks.

Cell Phone Towers: Risky or Not?

If you ask the government, no studies have shown conclusive evidence that radio-frequency emissions, a form of electromagnetic radiation (EMR), from cell towers are harmful.

According to the Food and Drug Administration:

"RF [Radio frequency] exposure on the ground is much less than exposure very close to the antenna and in the path of the transmitted radio signal. In fact, ground-level exposure from such antennas is typically thousands of times less than the exposure levels recommended as safe by expert organizations. So exposure to nearby residents would be well within safety margins."

Cell phone companies also maintain that no risks exist from the towers. "There are no health risks posed by the towers. Independent scientific panels around the world have

reached this conclusion," said Russ Stromberg, senior manager of development at T-Mobile.

But other studies seem to tell a different story, with findings such as:

- A study by Dr. Bruce Hocking in Australia found that children living near three TV and FM broadcast towers (similar to cell towers) in Sydney had more than twice the rate of leukemia than children living more than seven miles away.
- Says Dr. Neil Cherry, a biophysicist at Lincoln University in New Zealand:
 - "Public health surveys of people living in the vicinity of cell site base stations should be being carried out now, and continue progressively over the next two decades. This is because prompt effects such as miscarriage, cardiac disruption, sleep disturbance and chronic fatigue could well be early indicators of the adverse health effects. Symptoms of reduced immune system competence, cardiac problems, especially of the arrhythmic type, and cancers, especially brain tumor and leukemia, are probable."
- Biomedical engineer Mariana Alves-Pereira says exposure to cell phone towers can lead to vibroacoustic disease. "From what I understand, some of the complaints are similar in what is seen in vibroacoustic disease patients, which are people who develop a disease caused by low frequency noise exposure," she said. Symptoms can include mood swings, indigestion, ulcers and joint pain.
- Dr. Gerard Hyland, a physicist who was nominated twice for the Nobel Prize in medicine, says, "Existing safety guidelines for cell phone towers are completely inadequate ... Quite justifiably, the public remains skeptical of attempts by governments and industry to reassure them that all is well, particularly given the unethical way in which they often operate symbiotically so as to promote their own vested interests."
- According to the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, "Studies have shown that even at low levels of this radiation, there is evidence of damage to cell tissue and DNA, and it has been linked to brain tumors, cancer, suppressed immune function, depression, miscarriage, Alzheimer's disease, and numerous other serious illnesses."
- According to Dr. W. Löscher of the Institute of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacy of the Veterinary School of Hannover in Germany, dairy cows that were kept in close proximity to a TV and cell phone tower for two years had a reduction in milk production along with increased health problems and behavioral abnormalities. In an experiment, one cow with abnormal behavior was taken away from the antenna and the behavior subsided within five days. When the cow was brought back near the antenna, the symptoms returned.



The government and cell phone companies maintain cell towers (and phones) are safe.

Incentives for Cell Phone Towers

Why would a church, school or other private property allow a cell phone antenna to be placed on the grounds? Cell phone companies pay "rent" for their placement that can range anywhere from \$800 to \$2,000 a month. This can mean all the difference for an under-funded school district or church.

Still, many people are wary that the incentives do not come close to matching the potential risk involved. This includes the International Association of Fire Fighters who, in 2004, came out against the use of firehouses for cell antennas "until a study with the highest scientific merit" can prove they are safe.

These sentiments are echoed by residents of St. Louis where T-Mobile plans to put a cell site on an 89-year-old church. "That revenue is in exchange for our potential well-being,

our peace of mind and our property values," said resident David O'Brien. "None of us are willing to take that risk."

Recommended Reading

[Noise Pollution: How Bad is it, How Bad Could it Get, What are the Effects?](#)

[Bottled Water: Which City's Tap Water System is Making a Flood of Cash off of You?](#)

Sources

[Food and Drug Administration: Cell Phone Facts](#)

[Health Effects Associated With Mobile Base Stations in Communities](#)

[Are Cell Phone Towers Making You Sick?](#)

[Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center](#)

[Wired News: Cell Phone Tower Debate Grows](#)

[Extraordinary Behaviors in Cows in Proximity to Transmission Towers](#)

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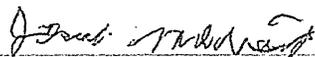
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