

McClenagan, Laura

From: Ramona Fair <msmadrone@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Planning Clerk
Subject: PLN-2021-17005 & PLN-2020-16754

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

July 9, 2021

Dear Humboldt County Planning Commissioners,

Re; New Cingular Wireless PCS, Special Permit and PWM Inc., Conditional use permit and Special Permit Record Numbers PLN-2020-16754 and PLN-2021-17005

I am opposed to the approval of any of the 2 cell towers proposed for the Arcata Bottoms, off Foster Ave.

There has been a lack of proper, fair and reasonable notification on these proposals; Several of my immediate neighbors who live within the 300' setback of the Sun Valley, aka Arcata Land Co, propertyline were Never notified as required by the County.

I received a notice by mail that arrived on Saturday June 19. That allowed me only 3 business days to gather information, submit to Planning and notify neighbors before the July 1 hearing. That then gave only another 3 business days for people to submit their public comments to Planning. Also, that gave a total of only 9 business days between receiving notification in the mail and the July 1 hearing. That is inadequate.

There needs to be more notification and time for public response. Also, it's Summertime and the schools in the area are out of session, therefore it's impossible for parents and staff to get the information they need and to respond in a timely manner. Also, the Many people who enjoy the Arcata Bottom for recreation need more notification and time for response.

Back in 2003, cell towers were proposed for the same area/s and there was a robust opposition from nearby residents, schools and community members. Petitions were circulated and signed. There were many hearings with County Planning and the Board of Supervisors. It was determined that there would be No approval of cell towers until Humboldt County drafted/created an Telecommunications Ordinance, one that included community input & workshops to help create one. This has Still not been done. It is unacceptable and an insult to public trust bestowed upon you to consider cell tower proposals again without having an Ordinance in place.

There are many issues that were, and still are, of great concern over such cell towers:

*Unsafe radiofrequency radiation exposure to nearby residents, schools, farms and wildlife; FCC guidelines for EMF exposure are outdated and under researched. The W.H.O. recently released scientific findings that constant exposure to that type of radiation Does cause cancer. There are many science based research studies in Europe and abroad that confirm that. Precautionary setbacks should be at 1500'-2500' minimum from all residences and schools.

*There is a lack of monitoring protocols for safety.

*There needs to be an initial study to assess the environmental impacts.

*Visual Clutter/Blight; A 130' cell tower reaching far above buildings would be visible from All directions for miles away even if the lower portion were partially hidden behind buildings. This is in conflict with the visual vernacular of the Arcata Bottom Ag and farm lands, old mill buildings, barns and rural surroundings.
There are NO water towers anywhere around here. This isn't the midwest. That water tower design is inappropriate for the area.

*Property devaluation and takings; County zoning regulations prohibit proposed developments from being detrimental to public health, safety or welfare or materially injurious to properties in the vicinity.

*Cell phone service out in the Arcata Bottom is fine! Proposing to place towers way out here to provide service to further reaching areas is inappropriate. Also, please don't use the "nimby" accusation to invalidate our concerns; would any of you be ok with a huge cell tower going up right near your home/s?

Based on all of the information provided here within, I'm requesting a continuation of these proposals until the County implements the development of an ordinance.

Sincerely,

Ramona Fair