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Venice Neighborhood Council
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Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

Position Letter

June 21, 2017

Assembly Committee on Local Government

Hon. Richard Bloom (50⁻ Assembly District), Member of the Committee

Hon. Sebastian Ridley-Thomas (54 Assembly District), Member of the Committee

Re: SB 649 (referred to the Assembly Committee on Local Government)

Dear Committee on Local Government and Members Bloom and Ridley-Thomas:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a regional coalition of all 13 neighborhood and community councils from Los Angeles Council Districts 5 and 11 (the Westside of Los Angeles). WRAC's member-councils together represent almost half a million residents and stakeholders.

In 2010, WRAC unanimously passed a motion calling for enhanced regulation of cell towers by the City of Los Angeles for the protection of local neighborhoods and communities, to the fullest extent of the law. It is our understanding that SB 649 would eliminate local government discretionary authority over "small cell" cell towers in public rights of way and on public property statewide, with limited exceptions. We are advised that the Districts 5 and 11 Councilmembers (respectively Paul Koretz and Mike Bonin) oppose SB 649, and WRAC leadership has recommended a motion to member-councils to oppose the bill. In this case, the time constraints of our process prevent the recommended motion from being passed by the required number of WRAC member-councils before the Local Government Committee is expected to meet to consider SB 649.

Under these circumstances, WRAC leadership has authorized me to inform you of WRAC's longstanding position in strong support of local government regulatory control of cell towers, for the protection of local neighborhoods and communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Fitzsimmons

Chair, Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

cc:

Hon. Mike Bonin, Councilmember, 11- District Hon. Paul Koretz, Councilmember, 5- District

WRAC delegates and alternates