



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

September 18, 2017

Hon. Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of the State of California
Governor's Office, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email to Tom Dyer, Chief Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary – tom.dyer@gov.ca.gov

Re: REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR'S VETO OF SB 649

Dear Governor Brown:

Pacific Palisades Community Council ("PPCC") has for 44 years been the most broad-based community organization and voice of Pacific Palisades – a coastal/hillside community with a population of about 25,000, located between the Santa Monica Mountains and the ocean within the City of Los Angeles.

PPCC has long-supported local control and enhanced local regulation of wireless telecommunications facilities ("WTF" – known as "cell towers"). PPCC joins with the California Dept. of Finance, the City and County of Los Angeles, the Mayor of Los Angeles, our City Councilmember, the LA Times (and dozens of newspapers statewide), the League of California Cities, the American Planning Association (CA Chapter) and over 260 other coalitions and organizations in strongly opposing SB 649. See: <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/PPCC-letter-SB649-LGcmtee.pdf>.

We urge your veto of this unprecedented, unsafe, unfair, unnecessary and misguided bill. SB 649 is a fundamentally flawed and overreaching legislative vehicle for arriving at increased broadband connectivity for Californians:

- It violates the principle of "Home Rule" and is an unprecedented give-away of local control to a single, for-profit private industry.
- It excludes fire departments and historic and coastal zones (unfairly prejudicing Palisadians and residents throughout the state who do not live in the coastal zone), while stripping cities and counties of the ability to exercise local control over WTF in numerous other sensitive areas (in front of homes, in areas protected by duly enacted Specific Plans and in or adjacent to parkland, open space, scenic highways, city and county parks, recreational facilities and arguably even schools).
- It is unnecessary and eliminates any incentive for telecom providers to cooperate with the community on WTF aesthetics and siting (our members have in fact worked successfully with providers to find mutually-acceptable solutions when local regulations allow for community input).
- It does not require providers to develop or install 5G (or any particular WTF) anywhere in California and will not close the digital divide.
- It compromises public safety. Utility poles overloaded with equipment caused the devastating 2007 fire in Malibu, resulting in millions of dollars in property damage and fines. SB 649 would potentially allow the stacking of equipment on poles without local review, thus posing a dangerous threat to hillside communities such as Pacific Palisades (located next to Malibu within a designated High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and has had first-hand experience with wildfires for decades). *Public safety demands more, not less, discretionary regulatory review of WTF in hillside/High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.*

For these substantial reasons, PPCC respectfully requests your personal attention to this important issue and **urges you to VETO SB 649**. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maryam Zar
Chair, Pacific Palisades Community Council
Christina Spitz
Chair/President Emeritus, Pacific Palisades Community Council

cc (via email):

Hon. Ben Allen, Senator (District 26)

senator.allen@sen.ca.gov

Hon. Richard Bloom, Assemblymember (District 50)

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Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hon. Mike Bonin, Los Angeles City Councilmember (CD11)

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