

August 6, 2018

Pacific Grove City Council
City Hall
300 Forest Ave.
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Dear members of Pacific Grove City Council,

I am writing you on behalf of Pacific Grove High School PTA in regard to the Pacific Grove Planning Commission's vote on July 26, 2018, which approved a request by Verizon Wireless to install and maintain a cell tower adjacent to Pacific Grove High School (PGHS). For the reasons described below, the Pacific Grove High School PTA **is strongly opposed** to the location of the Verizon cell tower and is requesting that the City Council consider and support the appeal that is being filed by a group of concerned parents who live in Pacific Grove and send their children to PG schools.

The installment of a cell tower adjacent to PGHS poses significant potential health dangers to both students and staff at PGHS. While some argue that radiation emitted from a cell tower is not a health danger, data from many studies indicate the opposite. Research shows that children and pregnant women are the most vulnerable – two demographics most likely to be on PGHS school grounds on a regular basis. The actual placement of the cell tower – near the back of PGHS and very close to Forest Grove Elementary School – only increases the concerns of the frequency in exposure.

Cell towers also pose a risk to students due to fire hazard. Many cell towers throughout the United States have caught fire and collapsed, posing a significant safety concern, especially in an area with young students walking to and from school every day.

The mission of all PTAs nationwide is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Our local PTA is very active in expressing our support for or opposition to issues dealing with the health, safety, education, or general well-being of children and youth in our community.

The members of the Pacific Grove High School PTA strongly urge you to please reconsider the Pacific Grove Planning Commission's previous vote and rescind approval for the Verizon cell tower at Pacific Grove High School.

Sincerely,

Julie Kavanaugh
President, Pacific Grove High School PTA

August 6, 2018

Re: Cell Tower Appeal

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Pacific Grove Middle School PTSA. Our board consisting of 16 members and 3 teachers has unanimously agreed that we oppose the construction of a Cell Tower next or near Pacific Grove High School. We support the appeal that is being filed and support the appellants as well.

Sincerely,

Ragni Coleman
President of Pacific Grove Middle School PTSA

August 6, 2018

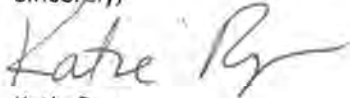
Re: Cell Phone Tower Appeal

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Forest Grove PTA. Our board consisting of 7 parents and 1 teacher has unanimously agreed that we are against the placement of a cell tower near the High School. We support the appeal that is being filed and support the appellants as well.

I have also been in contact with the President of the California State PTA Elena Shea. The California and National PTA are against cell phone towers near schools. I have attached the National PTA's resolution that they adopted in 2005.

Sincerely,



Katie Ryan

VP Forest Grove PTA

ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELDS
Adopted by Convention Delegates May 6, 1994
Reviewed by Board of Managers April 2005

- WHEREAS, The third Object of the National PTA states: To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, There is great public concern based on recent studies that electro-magnetic fields (EMF) may cause or promote certain cancers; and
- WHEREAS, In response to the 1992 Swedish national study indicating an increase in childhood leukemia with exposure to EMFs, the Swedish government announced that it would act on the assumption that there is a connection between exposure to power frequency fields and cancer, and, would propose legislation limiting EMF exposure to 1 milliGauss (mG) or less; and
- WHEREAS, Children are exposed to sources of EMFs other than power lines, such as school computers, microwave ovens, televisions, and all electrical equipment; and
- WHEREAS, Legitimate and proven methods of mitigating EMFs from power lines, computers, and other sources are available; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the California State PTA seek participation in coalitions to study the effects of electro-magnetic fields; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the California State PTA educate and inform its districts, councils and units about the potential hazards of EMFs and encourage school districts and schools to develop risk reduction policies and continue to disseminate information on the subject as it becomes available.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There is growing concern about the effects of electro-magnetic fields (EMFs). A large body of evidence indicates a connection between exposure to EMFs and cancer. Some studies (for example, a study paid for by Southern California Edison) have not found a connection, but, more importantly, no study has concluded that EMFs do not cause or promote cancer.

Continued on next page

Electro-Magnetic Fields – continued

Many experts in the field including Carl Blackman, a biophysicist with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and David Carpenter, Dean of the State University of the New York School of Public Health advocate "prudent avoidance." In other words, avoid EMF exposure whenever possible.

The problem is that most people do not understand where EMFs come from, let alone how to avoid exposure to EMFs. Most people assume that EMFs are generated only from high voltage transmission lines. In fact, EMFs are generated from many sources, including all electrical appliances (e.g., computers, hair dryers, electric blankets) and high levels of EMFs can be found in any home or school simply due to the way the building is wired.

Most public utilities offer free measurement services. All homes and schools should be measured as a matter of course. Where levels are unacceptably high, public utilities should be encouraged to mitigate the problem. The public also should be educated about the fact that legitimate methods and devices for mitigation exist and that the California Department of Health has a list of mitigation experts.

Computers are a major source of EMF exposure in schools. However, even old computers can be cheaply and easily retrofitted to reduce exposure. Sweden, which has taken the lead in the study of EMFs, has issued guidelines on computers and EMF exposure which should be followed until we have all the facts. The New York City Schools instituted such guidelines early in 1992.

Lessons learned from studies on smoking, asbestos, second-hand smoke and radon must not be ignored. We have an obligation to learn from the past and protect our children by reducing their exposure to what is clearly a serious and potential health hazard.