

Dear City Council Members

Thank you for organizing the community meeting with AT&T representatives at the Joaquin Miller Elementary School regarding the proposed Distributed Antenna System (DAS) installations in Districts 1 and 4.

A Piedmont Pines resident put up a sign on a Monterey Pine tree adjacent to a City of Oakland Public Notice of a proposed AT&T DAS installation at the intersection of Elderberry and Girvin Drive. It reads, "No Cell Tower" (see attached photos).

The following message was posted by "No Cell Tower Montclair" on Facebook: "AT&T is applying to place a cell tower at eye level less than 50-feet away from my living room window. My kids play in this room every day! Let's stop this Montclair!"

Montclair residents are rightfully concerned about AT&T's proposal to install over 30 cell antenna systems in the Oakland hills to "improve cell coverage." These towers will be in close proximity to homes exposing hills residents to electromagnetic radiation, including children.

According to an industry fact sheet, "DAS antennae are designed to send the vast majority of the radio frequency (RF) energy straight out from the antenna." Because of the topography of the Oakland hills, residences could receive the most intense radiation by virtue of being situated higher than the antenna.

Cell antenna at the proposed DAS site on Mendoza Drive (a City-approved project which has been appealed by a group of concerned neighbors) would be installed at eye level approximately 15-feet from a resident's deck.

The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies RF energy from cell phones as a "Possible Human Carcinogen" (Class 2B) which has broader implications for all Wi-Fi technology.

According to the Green Schools Initiative, "The cancer potential of cell phone towers is of growing concern. Unlike intermittent and

concentrated cell phone radiation, radiation from cell phone towers exposes the entire body for extended periods of time. This has caused people to question the dangers of these signals."

The Federal Communications Commission asserts that RF emissions from cell towers are generally "thousands of times below safety limits." However, a growing number of people around the world report "electromagnetic hypersensitivity to non-ionizing electromagnetic fields at intensities well below the limits permitted by international radiation safety standards."

According to the Environmental Working Group, "the necessary and extensive studies on cell phone tower radiation have not yet been conducted to determine the effects of long-term exposure. Although studies are inconclusive, it takes several years for cancer to develop and the symptoms have perhaps not yet been detected."

The cumulative impacts of exposure to electromagnetic pollution or "electrosmog" in our environment from a proliferation of cell towers, DAS, Smart Meters and other wireless technology has not been adequately studied for long-term health effects.

Oakland City Council Member Libby Schaaf's District 4 newsletter (May 3, 2013) states, "If an installation meets federal emission guidelines, a City may not deny an installation because of local residents' concerns over health impacts or emission levels."

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 preempts industry from local control (Sec. 704. Facilities siting; RF emission standards). Our Oakland public officials have indicated that they cannot oppose AT&T's DAS installations based on federal preemption and the threat of possible lawsuits.

Constituents rely on their elected representatives to protect public health. Residents must be given an opportunity for meaningful input on a development proposal that directly affects their local community, especially if the public will be exposed to increased levels of non-ionizing radiation and other negative impacts such as viewshed obstruction, visual blight, reduced property values, noise and fire safety risk from the proposed project.

Moreover, allowing AT&T's project to go forward will set a negative precedent by opening the door for other competing telecommunications companies to install their DAS equipment, resulting in multiple wireless installations on utility poles throughout our community.

In response to controversy over the safety of RF emissions, the Fairfax Town Council in Marin County follows the precautionary principle which is "the precept that an action should not be taken if the consequences are uncertain and potentially dangerous." Fairfax has not permitted any cell towers or DAS installations in residential neighborhoods.

The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council in the Town of Kensington in Contra Costa County voted to recommend "denial" of all nine applications for AT&T's proposed DAS installations. Their comments will be sent to the County to provide input on the CEQA Initial Study for the proposed project.

Our elected representatives in Oakland must take a strong stand on this issue on behalf of their constituents.

Respectfully,





