

No cell Towers in Santa Rosa Residential Neighborhoods

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Verizon plans to install 74 pole-mounted cell phone towers called Small Cell Towers (SCT) in Santa Rosa, California; 61 of them in residential neighborhoods – just 15 to 50 feet from homes. The city has already granted Verizon permits to go ahead.

I'm an electrical engineer with 27 years in the industry and a Life Member of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers). IEEE Spectrum in a 2011 article stated, "After a working group of 31 scientists from 14 countries reviewed the latest research data, the IARC announced that it has classified radiofrequency electromagnetic fields from cell phones "as possibly carcinogenic to humans based on an increased risk for glioma, a malignant type of brain cancer."" The World Health Organization classified cell phone radiation as a Group 2B carcinogen and stated there are particular risks to children and fetal development.

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) opposes Small Cell Towers near fire stations due to the health effects of RF microwave exposure. Dr. Gunnar Heuser, the union's toxicologist found neurological damage in all fire fighters who lived in fire stations in close proximity to Small Cell Towers for more than 5 years. Neurological damage includes: delayed response reaction, headaches, memory loss, and ringing in the ears. State law AB 57 states that Small Cell Towers can no longer be located near a fire station. To date, no FCC long term exposure studies have been completed.

Aside from RF microwave radiation, having a cell phone tower in your neighborhood could reduce your property value. A peer reviewed study published in The Appraisal Journal 2005, quantified residential properties within 300 feet of a cell phone tower as being devaluated by 20% to 25% due to fears of RF radiation, and aesthetics.

California state bill SB649, which was drafted by the telecommunications industry to ease permits for cell towers, while keeping them away from fire stations bypasses local government ordinances pertaining to cell towers. This would allow cities to issue permits without a design review. However, Governor Brown vetoed the bill at the last minute.

Keep in mind, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, only allows telecommunications companies to preempt local governments when they have requested to install cell towers due to the lack of coverage, but not due to the lack of bandwidth (capacity). Verizon in their presentation to the Santa Rosa City Council stated their reason for requesting more pole-mounted cell towers was to increase coverage and bandwidth in preparation for 4G/5G services. However, as far as we can tell, Verizon has not provided documented evidence regarding ‘significant lack of coverage’ for the already 74 permitted SCT sites in Santa Rosa.

Furthermore, new neighborhood cell towers do not necessarily guarantee faster web/video services.

What the city appears to be doing is fast tracking permits for Verizon to install SCT’s without building code compliance. City Council Policy 300-04 specifies Verizon must follow city Title 20 Zoning Code Chapter 20-44 Standards and Use for Telecommunications Facilities on city property, but not in residential neighborhoods. So what happened?

The city may have opened itself up to legal issues. Right now the best thing you can do to keep these not-so-pleasing-to-look-at, RF microwave radiating cell towers out of Santa Rosa neighborhoods is to write, email, and phone the mayor, the city council, and the city manager’s office and let them know you don’t want cell towers in residential neighborhoods or near schools. Start texting, emailing, Face book, go to city council meetings, organize a march, let your PTA know; knock on your neighbors doors. Let them know that there is a “cell tower coming to a neighborhood near you.” Pass this letter on to everyone you know.

Watch CBS Special Report - <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2018/01/25/consumerwatch-5g-cellphone-towers-signal-renewed-concerns-over-impacts-on-health/>

Or go to YouTube and type in “CBS ConsumerWatch cell towers”

See Cell Tower in residential neighborhood next page

