

# Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND TUJUNGA

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July 15, 2014

Milena Zasadzien  
Department of City Planning  
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 430  
Van Nuys, California 91401

RE: APCNV-2013-3457-SPE-CUW-SPP  
ENV-2013-3458-MND  
8200 West Verdugo Crestline Drive  
Proposed Installation of an Unmanned Wireless Telecommunications Facility

Dear Ms. Zasadzien:

This letter is being written to inform you of our community's concerns regarding the proposed installation of an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility, to include four panel antennas, four remote radio units, four tower-mounted amplifiers (TMAs) and a microwave dish, located at a height of 21-feet on an existing 97-foot in height electrical transmission tower at 8200 West Verdugo Crestline Drive . Additionally, accessory equipment will be installed within a new 587 square-foot lease area, to include a concrete pad, five equipment cabinets, three GPS antennas, a generator, and a 9-foot in height concrete masonry block wall enclosure.

On July 7, 2014, at a meeting of the Land Use Committee (LUC) of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) a group of concerned residents appeared to discuss this application as well as an application for a similar type of wireless installation proposed at 8000 West Verdugo Crestline Drive. After hearing these residents' and neighbors' concerns the LUC has determined the following:

- The San Gabriel/Verdugo Mountains Scenic Preservation Specific Plan was adopted to preserve natural views of the mountain ranges, preserve prominent ridgelines, and to prevent the building of structures or devices that would degrade those views.
- The proposed project is located within the Scenic Preservation Specific Plan, in a hillside area and on an existing electrical transmission tower that is easily visible to homeowners and residents in the area and the project poses a distinct adverse aesthetic impact on residents in the area.
- The design and placement of the Verizon wireless facilities on the existing Southern California Edison tower will be highly visible to a majority of people in the area;
- The project applicants have not demonstrated that the project will be placed or constructed in a manner to preclude silhouettes against the skyline above any prominent ridge lines on or near the site.

- There is no evidence on file that indicates the project proponents attempted to co-locate these antennas with other wireless carriers.
- Approval of this project will establish precedence and encourage the same kind of antenna and dish installations on other electrical transmission towers in the San Gabriel and Verdugo Mountains. This will result in the nullification of the San Gabriel/Verdugo Mountains Scenic Preservation Specific Plan
- Accordingly, the LUC opposes the project as currently proposed and requests that the Hearing Officer deny the application.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on this current application and to express our concerns regarding this proposed installation. In regards to the currently submitted plans for which the applicant is seeking approval, we ask the Hearing Officer to consider the following:

1. What will be the long-term aesthetic impacts of this precedent-setting installation? Is the City prepared to grant one wireless carrier approval of a permit while denying another for essentially the same type of installation or can we expect an unlimited proliferation of such installations in the Scenic Corridor?
2. As proposed, this antenna installation by itself will result in both localized and long-range aesthetic impacts. A series of such installations on existing electrical transmission towers (which is likely to occur should this application be approved) will create cumulative adverse impacts on aesthetics.
3. The San Gabriel/Verdugo Mountains Scenic Preservation Specific Plan was adopted ten years ago and did not include provisions regulating cell tower or antenna installations within the Specific Plan area. As such, it may be preferable to amend the Specific Plan to include development standards and guidelines for such installations within the Specific Plan area before new installations are approved.

This site, as well as other sites within the Scenic Corridor, are specially protected areas that members of our community care deeply about. Many community members hike on trails in the Verdugo Mountains and are concerned that these wireless cell installations will visually degrade the area. We share that concern and ask that you carefully weigh the merits of this application and its potential long-ranging detrimental effects.

Your deliberations in this matter should take into account the community's goals for maintaining important scenic view sheds in our area.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dean C. Sherer, Chair  
Land Use Committee  
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Mark Seigel  
President  
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

cc: Claudia Rodriguez, Planning Deputy, Councilman Felipe Fuentes