

Dist V resident

RECEIVED

FEB 02 2018

Re: PLN17-0073, CUP17-0015, EIS17-0022

NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

cc: All BOS  
CEO  
Counsel  
Planning

To Whom it may concern

The site plan submitted by AT&T is flawed in many ways: In the application the statement "The site lies at an approximate elevation of 3,363.5 feet above mean sea level."

This is incorrect, the site elevation of the proposed tower is actually 3,675 feet, misrepresented in the application by over 300 feet. this means that all the RF engineering on the tower is incorrect and the power levels should be much less if the provided elevation above sea level was accurate.

The site plan submitted is incomplete and should show contour and accurate elevations.

In the application AT&T represents that there are no closer sites

"Site Justification: LUDC Section L-II 3.8.E.1.d restricts towers from being installed within two miles of another tower unless certain screening criteria are met. AT&T's coverage improvement goals are achieved when they are able to locate a cell tower within  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the optimal coverage location (see Figure 8. Service Improvement Objective) with consideration of topography and nearby obstructions. AT&T investigated possible co-location within one-mile increments from the optimal location. They found that the nearest co-location towers, as verified by active FCC and FAA filings, are located in Nevada City on City Hall at 305 Spring Street and the Chamber of Commerce at 200 Coyote St. Both sites are located 5-miles from the proposed location."

"Title 3 Land Use and Development Code, Chapter II: Zoning Regulations, Article 3

Specific Land Uses, Sec. L-II 3.8 Communication Towers and Facilities:

**Submit a list of existing towers within the desired service range, information regarding co-location opportunities and evidence of negotiation for co-location on existing towers where such opportunities exist."**

"The Board can require the applicant to demonstrate with written documentation that they had examined all facility sites located near said Facility Site, in which applicant has no legal or equitable interest whether by ownership, leasehold or otherwise to determine whether those existing Facility Sites can be used to provide adequate coverage and/or adequate capacity to the surrounding said Facility Site."

In fact, there is a better existing FCC licensed broadcast site within 1500 feet that was never contacted by AT&T for co-location.

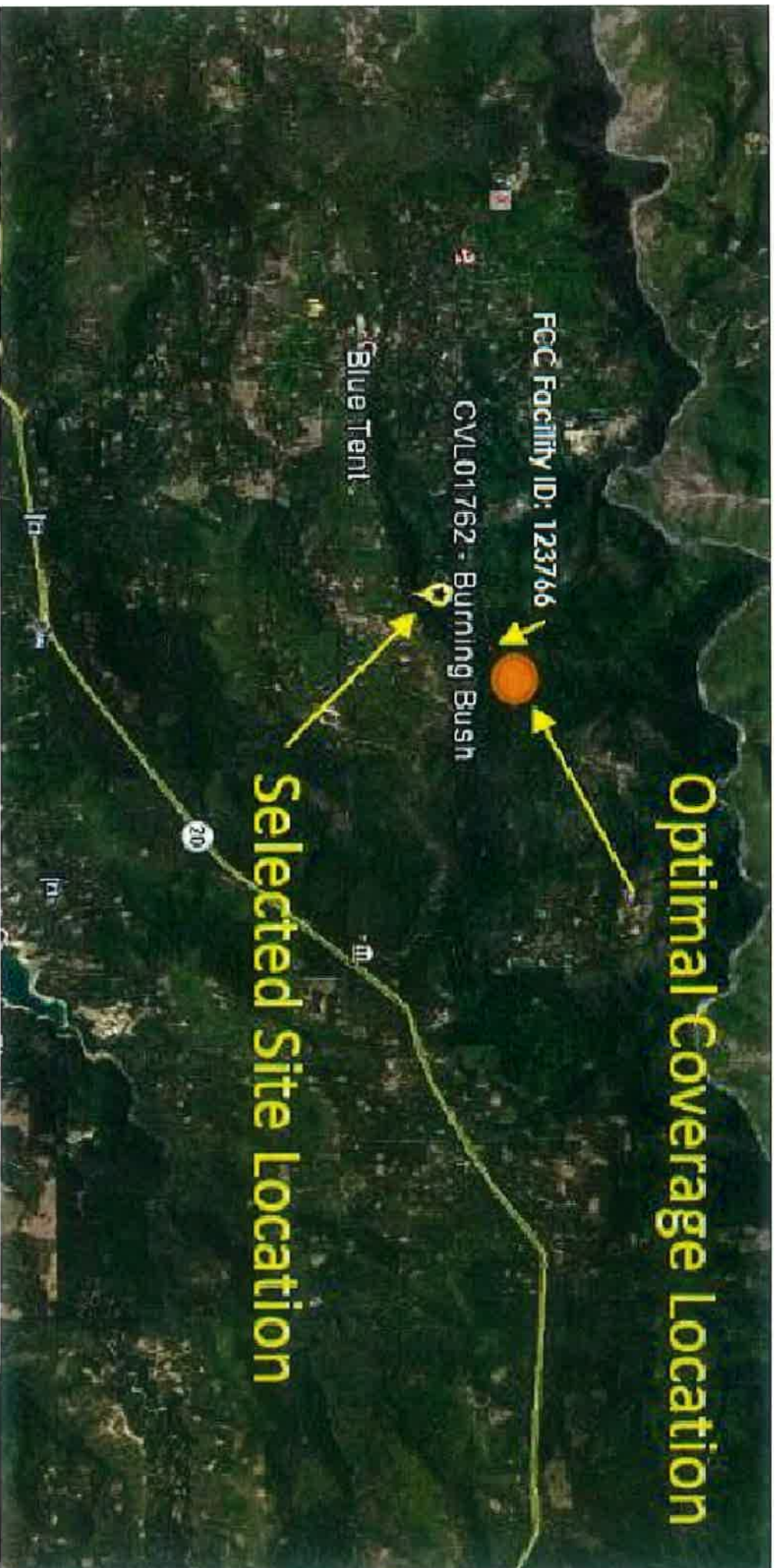
**Optimal Coverage Location**

FCC Facility ID: 123766

CVL01762 - Burning Bush

Blue Tent

**Selected Site Location**



Of special concern is the A array that will saturate the local neighborhood with high levels of RF in the 1.9-2.3 Gigahertz range, a range that is used for many Part 15 devices. The A array is directly focused on the Washington Ridge CYA Camp and residents on Royal Plum, Burning Bush, Barn Hollow, Cooper and Lightning Tree Roads affecting about 30 residences.

**AT&T has not provided a mitigation plan for interference to existing Part 15 devices in use in our neighborhood.**

A real-world example of interference that would require mitigation is Community Radio Station KYRR 93.3 FM that is located 1,500 feet east of the proposed cell site at the same elevation. The A array is directly focused into the studio. The studio uses a studio to tower link at 2.1 gig, the EAS processor operates at 1.6 Gig, EAS FEMA feed comes in at 850 MHz, Telephone system operates a 1.9 gig, security camera 2.1 gig, Wi-Fi 2.1 gig, and various laptop computers that broadcasters bring into the studio to do shows that bring in WIFI at 1.9-2.3 gig range. The cost to mitigate these potential interference problems are estimated to be between 9 and 12 thousand dollars which is a lot for a small publicly funded community radio station.

**The A array of the proposed AT&T Burning Bush tower will impact the EAS system of radio station KYRR and thus impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.**

EBI Consulting did not submit a complete Radio Frequency RF-EME Compliance Report.

1. It is unknown how far away from the tower the maximum power density will occur. A specific figure for RF radiation at ground level expressed in microwatts per centimeter squared ( $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ ) must be provided. The Report provides data allowing only an approximation of the maximum power density and does not specify at what distance it will occur from the cell tower. Percent of standard metrics do not allow for an actual prediction to be determined. The actual predicted RF power density maximum cannot be determined because the AT&T RF Compliance Report does not provide adequate information to do so. The Report lacks a maximum power density prediction at a given distance from the cell tower, what the maximum power density is in  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ , and the basis for determining for the uncontrolled public limit at this combination of frequencies and power outputs for each.

2. The maximum Effective Radiated Power at each of the frequencies to be broadcasted needs to be provided (700 MHz, 850 MHz, 1900 MHz, 2300MHz). Since the actual compliance level for MPE will be determined by a calculation that combines each contributing frequency and its proportionate contribution to the overall cumulative RF output, the actual compliance level (in microwatts/cm<sup>2</sup>) is missing from this Report. If AT&T's consultant does not provide this, it prevents any independent verification of the RF modeling conclusions.

In the AT&T application there are no measures made to mitigate potential interference from the proposed tower. Because there is no information provided on future co-locations mitigation for potential interference from future build-outs must also be taken into account.

The RF Compliance Report for this Project is deficient because co-located build outs permitted under this application are not characterized in the RF Compliance

Report. Missing from the RF report are the Cumulative Projections of RF during the build-out of the two co-location projects. In addition, the Staff Report and all related permit documents state, "The mono-pine communication tower shall be engineered to accommodate a minimum of two (2) additional carriers in addition to AT&T." What is the maximum number of carriers that can be located on the tower? Will the county be approving a permit for AT&T and two co-locators without requiring other applications if more than two co-locators are planned?

The project description indicates future development is being permitted with no assessment of the cumulative RF power density that will reasonably be anticipated with full buildout of the planned project. An RF Compliance Report must be required for the full-buildout of the cell tower (the complete project) that includes co-located carriers.

The following policy applies in the case of an application for a proposed transmitter, facility or modification (not otherwise excluded from performing a routine RF evaluation) that would cause non-compliance at an accessible area previously in compliance. In such a case, it is the responsibility of the applicant to either ensure compliance or submit an EA if emissions from the applicant's transmitter or facility will result in an exposure level at the non-complying area that exceeds 5% of the exposure limits applicable to that transmitter or facility in terms of power density or the square of the electric or magnetic field strength."

The above policy states that the co-locators approved for this Project must be accountable if they contribute in excess of 5% of the exposure limit. The EXISTING first antennas in the Burning Bush Road project produce 5.2% of the exposure limit.

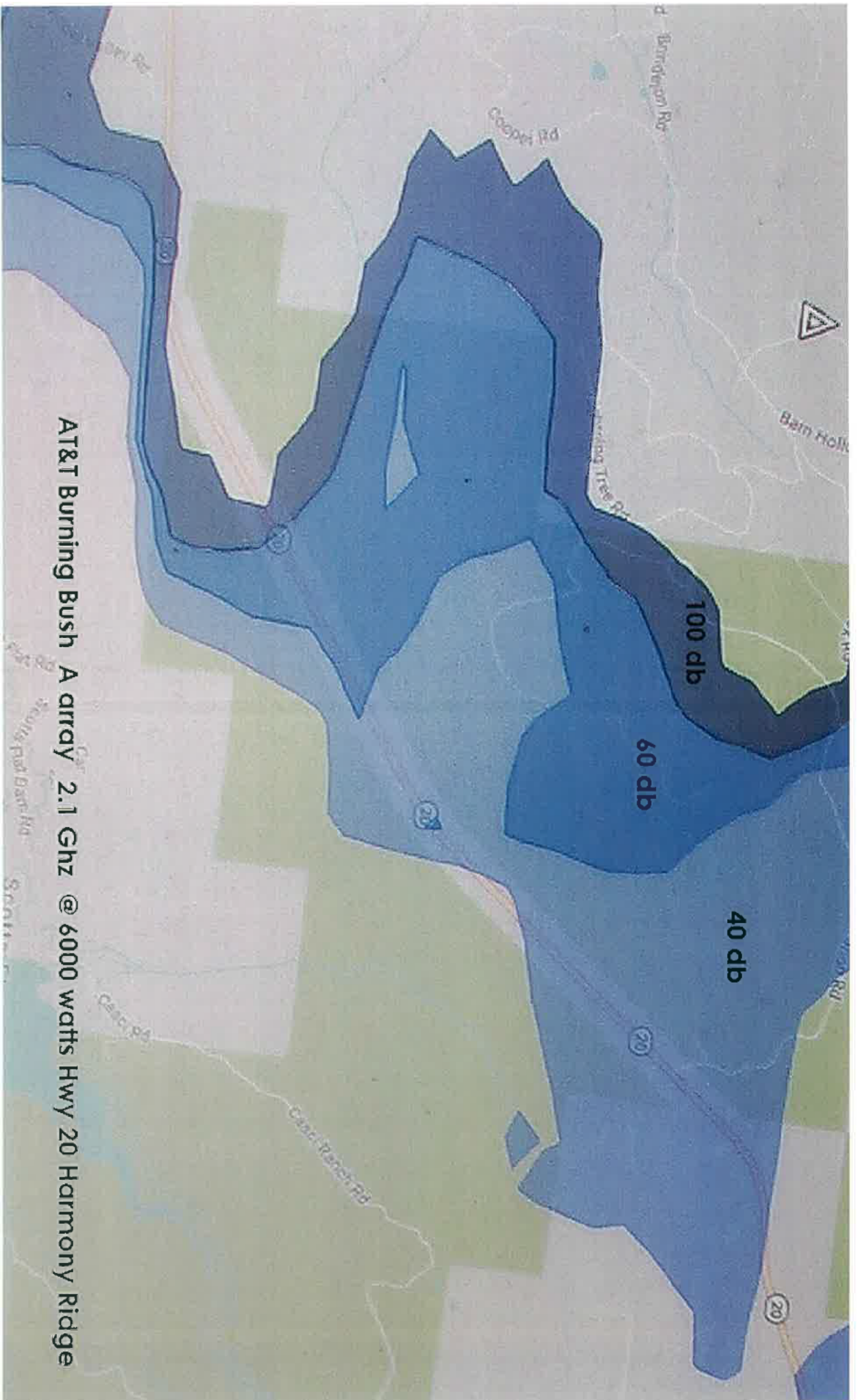
Even with the incorrect information on site elevation being used to justify increased power on the A array the power level on the Hwy 20 corridor would still be less than 60 db, which is less than reliable service, due to several highly forested ridges in between the tower and Hwy 20. This would be especially prominent in the 1.9-2.3 gig range. Economically, the A array makes little sense for the small amount of service it would provide. See enclosed Lonley-Rice study.

The C array is a very different story.

The San Juan Ridge is in dire need of communications infrastructure. Land lines are filled, there is very limited cell phone service and internet. Every year there are accidents on the South Yuba where cell phone coverage could save a life. In the event of a natural disaster, such as fire, cell phone service on the San Juan Ridge would be A+.

It makes no sense to throw the C array under the bus because the A array stinks. If the project is approved the A array should be rejected.

Steve Michelsen, Broadcast Engineer



AT&T Burning Bush A array 2.1 Ghz @ 6000 watts Hwy 20 Harmony Ridge

Dist 1  
RECEIVED

FEB 02 2018

NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 2, 2018

To the Board of Supervisors,

We are requesting of you to please deny the conditional use permit for the proposed cell tower on Burning Bush Rd, Nevada City, for the following reasons:

- Coverage or lack thereof has not been proven.
- Environmental impact has not been adequately researched.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elena Rago, Nevada City Resident



Dist 3  
Feb. 1, 2018

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FEB 02 2018


NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Nevada County Board of Supervisors

To Whom it May Concern:

I want to express my disapproval of the proposed cell tower at Burning Bush. I request that you deny the conditional use permit for this tower and for other proposed cell towers because of known damage to the environment and adverse health effects on humans in the area.

Signed,  
James Cox  
Nevada County resident



RECEIVED

Feb. 21  
2018

FEB 02 2018

NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

To The Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

I am a Nevada County resident and I do not approve of the cell tower that is designated to be erected on

Burning Bush Road. Please deny the conditional use permit until microwave technology can be made safe for the environment and animals which violates the Commerce clause. Technology is not the problem. It is the way that technology is being used that is objectionable. Let's make Nevada County a safe technology zone with life affirming technology).

Sincerely,

J. Butler

J. BUTLER

Nevada County  
resident



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FEB 02 2018

NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2/2/18

To the Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

Regarding the AT&T Telecommunications Conditional Use Permit on Burning Bush Road, I am requesting that you deny this permit. As a frequent visitor to one of the adjacent parcels, this tranquil off-the-grid retreat would be disrupted and jeopardized by this project. From reading through the application and subsequent hearing materials, it appears that the motivation for the tower, to provide cell coverage, has not been proven.

Sincerely,

Michael Potter, President  
Coach Mike  
GetWellness Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Potter", written in a cursive style.

Citrus Heights resident

cc: All BOS  
CEO  
counsel  
Planning

**Julie Patterson-Hunter**

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**From:** Deidre Nutri-D Belfiore <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:49 AM  
**To:** Julie Patterson-Hunter  
**Cc:** Michael Potter  
**Subject:** Johanna Finney Nevada City Cell Tower Case

To Whom it May Concern,

As a Practitioner of Natural Health, we work with the patients and families devastated by the effects of radiation and varying EMF fields.

We must set a precedence and prevent private residences from having their property and health rights jeopardized.

Please consider my direct opposition to any cell tower installations on private sanctuary property, such as this Nevada City private land.

Sincerely,

--

**Deidre "Nutri-D" Belfiore, CN, CHT VP - Nutrition Coach**  
MPL Group's GetWellness Center



*GetWellness Center*



A Company Specializing in 'Organizational Wellness Solutions'



[Nutri-D@MPLGroup.org](mailto:Nutri-D@MPLGroup.org)  
[GetWellnessCenter.com](http://GetWellnessCenter.com)  
<http://on.fb.me/VvZHc6>

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FEB 02 2018

NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*ec. All BOS  
Planning  
Council  
CEO*

2/2/18

To the Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

Regarding the AT&T Telecommunications Conditional Use Permit on Burning Bush Road, I am requesting that you deny this permit.

Sincerely,

Amy Quijada

Julie Patterson-Hunter

FEB 06 2018

**From:** Janie McDowall <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2018 1:36 PM  
**To:** Julie Patterson-Hunter  
**Subject:** Letter of Support to Decline Cell Tower

COUNTY SUPERVISORS

*ec: All BOS  
CEO  
counsel  
P. Downing*

2/2/18

To the Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

Regarding the AT&T Telecommunications Conditional Use Permit on Burning Bush Road, I am requesting that you deny this permit.

It will impair the quality of life in that area for many persons and families and in general be a very poor health decision

Sincerely,

Jane McDowall

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FEB 05 2018

NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

cc: All BOS  
CEO  
Counsel  
Planning

February 5, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

We are Katie and Mike Daggett and we live on the north side of Washington Ridge across the canyon of the proposed 13-story communications tower. In the past couple of months, we have become acquainted with the stressful situation over at Royal Plum/Burning Bush.

It appears to be fact that at this point in time, that easement for power to the project site does not exist and will not be forthcoming. In all likelihood the easements will not be granted. If the situation persists, why keep up the debate about this location?

It has come to our attention that the proposed tower as it is specified in the permit application indicates a danger to our neighborhood at Lightning Tree Road. A recent analysis by an expert on radio frequency indicates that the energy sent in our direction is intense and dangerous. How can this permit pass an environmental impact report? This is a danger to all life forms in our neighborhood.

It is solidly the belief at our house that at this point of contention, the appeal by the Royal Plum/Burning Bush residents needs to be accepted and the project terminated.

Very Sincerely yours,



FEB 05 2018

NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

5 February 2018

*cc: All BOS  
CEO  
Counsel  
Planning*

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident of the Washington Ridge neighborhood of Lightning Tree that is on the ridge south of the Burning Bush site. Having been a Radar Systems Engineer working on site projects for the U.S. Army and Air Force in my former work life, I am no stranger to the technology of radio frequency.

Burning Bush/Royal Plum/Green Castle is a neighborhood of people who live off the grid. The residents have chosen to live without commercial power in order to avoid elements like radio wave technology close around them. There are young couples with young children in the neighborhood. If given enough radio waves from many sources, a cumulative effect occurs. Children will be impacted first. Accumulated radio waves come our way from hundreds of communications satellites in space, surrounding towers, PG&E devices hung on homes, cell phones and other handhelds, home wi-fi systems, Bluetooth appliances, trackers and more. They all form layers of emissions that accumulate together. If given enough layering, then the energy builds and starts to behave like a microwave oven. It heats living matter. Currently, there has been little monitoring by authorities for this out of control phenomenon.

In looking at the documents related to this project, I understand that the primary mission originates from a federal contract awarded to AT&T given to cover the U.S. up to 95%, the purpose being the facilitation of first responders and emergency services. A further analysis submitted to the appeal packet written by an independent RF expert reveals a miscalculation in the elevation and the RF output of the proposed tower demonstrated a threat to my neighborhood at Lightning Tree Road. It states that Washington Ridge will receive from 3700' in elevation upward an RF radiation hit of 6000 watts or 100 db out of the Panel A that is aimed in our direction. This is enough of a power hit to light up the bodies of the residents so they have the effect of daytime wavelengths or feel like they are in daytime 24 hours a day. Imagine what this hit will mean to the plant and animal life on Washington Ridge. This is unhealthy and unacceptable. The expert that wrote the analysis is an FCC licensee running station 83.3 KYRR that broadcasts to Yuba River Canyon and San Juan Ridge. His antenna is positioned at the top of the ridge. How come AT&T did not consider this location for their tower? It has power and is higher in elevation. The licensee expresses that Panel C is correct and Panels A and B are configured incorrectly. He wants to see a drop in wattage of A and B panels to 1500 down to 700 watts.

The Board needs to accept the appeal and push back the project until a better solution is identified that can provide for the first responder/emergency services needed and the health of the citizens of Little Rock Creek Canyon.

*Louise H. Jones*  
Louise H. Jones



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FEB 05 2018

NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

cc: All BOS  
CEO  
Counsel  
Planning

February 5, 2018

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am Felicia Hoppe. I live at [REDACTED] in Nevada City. I have owned this property for over 4 decades. My home is on the north side of Washington Ridge. It is across from the ridge that has the proposed Burning Bush cell tower project.

Urban people are exposed to 100 million times more electromagnetic radiation than their grandparents were. Part of the reason is radiation from cell phone towers and microwave antennas. I now have great concerns that this close-by high-frequency source can affect the vegetable gardens, orchards, forests, animals both domestic and wild and the soil as well as the inhabitants of my neighborhood.

Just like anyone else I would like to have better internet and phone delivery. From an analysis done by a local radio frequency engineer, it sounds like the radio waves emitted will be a destructive force to my residence and neighborhood. The news that my ridge will be hit with a very high power of radio frequency under the proposed plan is an outrage. Burning Bush tower has to be cancelled and reworked so that we on Washington Ridge are safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Felicia Hoppe*

Felicia Hoppe

[REDACTED] Nevada City

## Julie Patterson-Hunter

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**From:** Julie Patterson-Hunter  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2018 8:16 AM  
**To:** All BOS Board Members  
**Cc:** Rick Haffey; Alison Barratt-Green; Alison Lehman; Brian Foss; Coleen Shade; Tine Mathiasen  
**Subject:** FW: I approve of construction of a cell tower to improve cellular coverage of the Hwy 20 corridor and Washington Ridge area

Dist 5 residents

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**From:** Webmaster  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2018 8:13 AM  
**To:** Steve Monaghan <Steve.Monaghan@co.nevada.ca.us>; Julie Patterson-Hunter <Julie.Patterson-Hunter@co.nevada.ca.us>  
**Subject:** FW: I approve of construction of a cell tower to improve cellular coverage of the Hwy 20 corridor and Washington Ridge area

**From:** Robert Lowe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 6, 2018 11:56 PM  
**To:** Webmaster <Webmaster@co.nevada.ca.us>  
**Subject:** I approve of construction of a cell tower to improve cellular coverage of the Hwy 20 corridor and Washington Ridge area

Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

This letter is written to support Dr. Rob Crockett's request for a cell tower near his home. As a fellow physician and local resident of Nevada City since 1980, and an active user of the trails on the Hwy. 20 corridor, as well as one who frequently drives the Hwy. 20 route from Nevada City to Hwy. 80 I completely agree with Dr. Crockett's assessment of the need for improved cellular coverage to improve safety for drivers on Hwy. 20 and all outdoor recreational users of the area. I would urge approval for construction of a cell tower.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Lowe, M.D.

I'm asking for your help as fellow hikers, mountain bikers, and residents. If you could send a quick email by Monday to Carl Jones, [Carl@S2Swireless.com](mailto:Carl@S2Swireless.com), the AT&T consultant on our project, and maybe explain how cell/broadband would help safety in our rural area, and for that matter law enforcement and fire. Carl is assembling voices and will present evidence of local community support for the project to the BOS. Perhaps you could leave a note or message with board of supervisors members <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/731/Board-of-Supervisors>. Please pass along this note also to fellow BONC folks.

The coverage would include a part of the South Yuba canyon east of Edwards Crossing, around Blue Hole, part of San Juan Ridge extending to Columbia/Placer Diggins and Malakoff Diggins, our little



valley around east Cooper road, and extending south to Hiway 20. I included a topo map—we are at the center arrowhead.

Best,  
Rob Crockett, MD

## Julie Patterson-Hunter

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**From:** McGillicuddy, Rene [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2018 12:17 PM  
**To:** Carl@s2swireless.com  
**Cc:** Dan Miller; Heidi Hall; Hank Weston; Ed Scofield  
**Subject:** Cellular antenna needed in Cooper Rd. area!

Carl –

First I want to thank you for the push to provide cellular service in our area of the county. It is commendable and necessary just to keep the jobs and community efforts alive since most of the population exclusively communicates by email, text and cellular voice.

The Cellular Antennas that are currently in place in the county are not adequately spaced so that our entire area can get coverage. For 25 years I have worked full time for a National insurance company that allows you to work from home. A real blessing 15 years ago to have the option to do so when I was not traveling for business. The coverage in the area has severely dropped, probably because of bandwidth. Over the past few years I have had to find other places besides home to work in order to just get a connection (let alone keep the connection throughout the workday). I'm not sure how the Forest Conservation Camp responds quickly to fires and new generated in the fire season of the year. They are our first line of defense. Email blasts and communication is in fact necessary for sustainability in this vicinity.

I think installation of this antenna will increase the value of homes, provide fewer occasions where we are snowed in and cannot work, keep us off of the highways during inclement weather and on a positive note, increase the value of life that we have chosen by living here in Nevada County!

Many thanks for leading this advancement. I know many other full time employed couples that will not look at housing outside of covered areas. It takes jobs and incomes to pay for infrastructure, taxes, roads, etc.. To be connected in this day and this economy should be where Nevada County is leading, not lagging.

All the best,

**Rene McGillicuddy**  
**AIG, Client Risk Solutions**  
**Commercial Risk Strategist**

[REDACTED] 4  
[REDACTED]

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## Julie Patterson-Hunter

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**From:** Richard Anderson  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2018 6:40 AM  
**To:** Julie Patterson-Hunter  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cell Phone Tower Approval

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Paul McGillicuddy <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** January 7, 2018, 12:08:35 PM PST  
**To:** [carl@s2swireless.com](mailto:carl@s2swireless.com)  
**Cc:** Richard Anderson <[richard.anderson@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:richard.anderson@co.nevada.ca.us)>, [dan.miller@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:dan.miller@co.nevada.ca.us), [hank.weston@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:hank.weston@co.nevada.ca.us), [ed.scofield@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:ed.scofield@co.nevada.ca.us), [heidi.hall@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:heidi.hall@co.nevada.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Cell Phone Tower Approval

Hello Carl,

I live on [REDACTED], Nevada City across from the ridge from where the proposed cell phone tower is to be installed. This is in Richard Anderson's District 5. I am writing to you in my support of the installation of a much needed cell phone tower in my neighborhood.

The installation will give my neighbors and me the access to the Internet, telephone calls for business, family and friends and the ability to work from home. When anyone can work from home via the new technology of the digital world via the web we all are winners.

The overall quality of life improves for the community and our home values increase. This new tower is a win all the way around for the community as a whole.

Thank you and good luck with the appeal process. I hope you receive the needed approval by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday the 9th of January.

Thank you,

## Julie Patterson-Hunter

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**From:** Julie Patterson-Hunter  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2018 2:42 PM  
**To:** Rick Haffey; Alison Barratt-Green; Alison Lehman  
**Cc:** Brian Foss; Coleen Shade  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed AT&T Communications Tower on Burning Bush Rd. (CUP17-0015)

**From:** Julie Patterson-Hunter  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2018 2:41 PM  
**To:** All BOS Board Members <AllBOSBoardMembers@co.nevada.ca.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed AT&T Communications Tower on Burning Bush Rd. (CUP17-0015)

**From:** Richard Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2018 2:03 PM  
**To:** Julie Patterson-Hunter <Julie.Patterson-Hunter@co.nevada.ca.us>; Brian Foss <Brian.Foss@co.nevada.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed AT&T Communications Tower on Burning Bush Rd. (CUP17-0015)

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**From:** Ron Gray <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2018 1:51 PM  
**To:** Richard Anderson  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed AT&T Communications Tower on Burning Bush Rd. (CUP17-0015)

**Ron Gray | [REDACTED] Nevada City, CA 95959**

February 8, 2018

The Honorable Richard Anderson, District 5  
Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
Eric Rood Administrative Center  
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**Re: Proposed AT&T Communications Tower on Burning Bush Rd. (CUP17-0015)**

Dear Supervisor Anderson:

As a long-time District 5 resident, I'm writing to voice my support for the proposed AT&T communications tower located on Burning Bush Road in the Blue Tent/North Bloomfield Rd. area.

Your approval of this project will provide much-needed and long-overdue cellular phone and broadband Internet access to our neighborhood.

Specifically, this project provides the following public benefits:

- **Improves Public Safety & Emergency Services.** The proposal enhances public safety for residents and support for public safety professionals by improving voice and data communications services along the North Bloomfield Road corridor. There is currently no cell service along a six- to seven-mile stretch of North Bloomfield Road that serves North Bloomfield Road area residents, commuters to the San Juan Ridge, and recreational access to the South Yuba River via Edwards Crossing. In the event of a

wildfire in this high-risk area, the addition of cell service could make the critical difference between early response and an unthinkable tragedy.

- **Supports for the Local Economy.** The project provides a local economic boost by supporting the large and growing number of home- and Internet-based businesses (including my own) that are the new economic engines of rural economies. In addition, providing access to cell and broadband service provides a boost to property values – also an essential component of rural economic growth and vitality;
- **Closes the Digital Divide in Education.** School children, especially those in junior high and high school, are increasingly dependent on the Internet as tool for homework assignments. Students who live in rural settings without access to broadband Internet are at a disadvantage. This is another reason why homes in rural areas without broadband access have depressed resale value and are not family-friendly.

Support for this and similar projects that expand rural cellular and broadband services offers a critical opportunity for local government leaders to improve public safety, bolster economic growth and foster an environment that is friendly to local education, local families and children.

I thank you in advance for your approval of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Ron Gray

