



Tahoe City Public Utility District

August 28, 2009

Dear Customer:

At their meeting of August 25, 2009, the Tahoe City Public Utility District Board of Directors heard a presentation regarding the proposed installation of a 150' "Pine Tree" radio tower on District property at Grouse Drive and Chukar Circle in the Chamberlands subdivision.

As proposed this mono pole tower would provide antenna service for two cellular telephone companies and the United States Coast Guard's new search and rescue radio system, Rescue 21.

At the meeting representatives from the United States Coast Guard (Rescue 21) and SBA Network Services (Tower builder and cellular representative) described the need for the project, and the justification for the Grouse Drive site. Additionally the Board received numerous e-mails and heard a great amount of public testimony on the perceived health risks of living and working near a radio tower.

In order to separate fact from perception the Board heard a presentation from Mr. William Hammett P.E. of Hammett & Edison, Inc. an industry leader in the calculation and measurement of RF exposure conditions and questioned in detail his findings regarding RF impacts. A published author, Radio Frequency Radiation: Issues and Standards, Mr. Hammett stated that when determining the location of a radio towers location his goal is to insure that all Federal Communication Commission RF exposure requirements are met. When asked if the proposed SBA towers location met FCC RF exposure requirements he advised "I have measured RF electromagnetic fields from cellular telephone antennas in hundreds of homes throughout California and have found exposure conditions to be consistently below the levels allowed under current FCC standards. For this proposal, I have determined that RF levels for the proposed facilities at any nearby building will not exceed 4.4% of the public exposure limit. It is important to note that the FCC standard is 50 times below known levels of possible impact, intending to represent a prudent margin of safety for all persons."

Following staff, expert and public presentations the Board directed staff to prepare a draft lease agreement with SBA Network Services to include the following points:

- That the facility to be operated in conformance with all local, state, and federal regulations and safety standards;
- That if FCC standards or guidelines change during the term of the lease the facility will be updated to meet all new standards;

- That SBA offer post-project RF exposure surveys for homes within 1,000 feet of the proposed structure to ensure that the RF levels are below the appropriate standards;
- That SBA provide a report to the Board documenting their good faith effort to position the mono pole tower further back from the proposed site to reduce impacts on the surrounding neighbors, recognizing that the location must meet the requirements of all permitting agencies and that RF needs for both SBA and the Coast Guard ;
- That the lease be contingent on successful environmental review and permitting by all appropriate agencies;
- That any installation requires preservation of public access to the existing trails on the property; and
- That all buildings, fencing, and other components of the project will receive District approved aesthetic treatments.

Please note that this item has not been scheduled for a future Board meeting. Once SBA completes their alternative site analysis, and the ground lease document is updated we will place it on our Board's agenda for discussion and possible action. As in the past we will make sure that you are notified of the meeting.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at either of the numbers below.

Sincerely,



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