



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Board of Supervisors

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Belia Ramos
Chair

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Ben Hueso
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSE – Senate Bill 649 (Hueso); Wireless Telecommunications Facilities.

Dear Senator Hueso:

On behalf of the Napa County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully inform you of our unanimous opposition to your measure, Senate Bill (SB) 649, that seeks to establish an administrative permitting process for small cell wireless facilities that bypasses public review and approval.

While we commend your intent to streamline the permitting process for “small cell” towers to facilitate the roll-out of fifth generation mobile technology (5G), we strongly object to SB 649 bypassing the public process. In Napa County and other counties and cities in California, proposed cell towers must go through the discretionary permitting process, including CEQA review, for good reason – there are often unintended environmental, health, and visual consequences that arise from installing and operating these devices.

SB 649 would grant the local jurisdiction’s zoning administrator to issue the permit, but small cell towers bring unique problems that must be publicly reviewed. These towers are smaller in size and transmit shorter distances at higher speeds. Because these small cell towers have much shorter ranges, they need to be deployed at greater density. We firmly believe that the current local review process must be maintained to fully review these new devices.

For these reasons, the Board unanimously opposes your bill, SB 649.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Belia Ramos".

Belia Ramos

Chair, Napa County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Bill Dodd
Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Members, Napa County Board of Supervisors
Minh Tran, Interim Napa County Executive Officer
Paul Yoder/Karen Lange, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties

Brad Wagenknecht
District 1

Ryan Gregory
District 2

Diane Dillon
District 3

Alfredo Pedroza
District 4

Belia Ramos
District 5