

From: [Peggy Griffin](#)
To: [City of Cupertino Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [City Clerk; Chad Mosley](#)
Subject: 2021-02-23 PC Agenda Item #6 Aesthetics of Cell Towers
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 5:38:30 PM
Attachments: [2021-02-23 Cell Antenna maps and questions.pdf](#)

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Please include this email as part of the Written Communication for the 2021-02-23 Planning Commission Meeting, Agenda Item #6 Cell Tower Aesthetics.

Dear Planning Commission,

On July 16, 2019 at the City Council meeting Agenda Item #2, Chad Mosley presented the design that was to prevent a hodgepodge of clustered cell antenna poles and equipment. Based on the info from the city's cell antenna map and my neighborhood (North Blaney), there's no plan across the city! Poles are being approved one-by-one so there's no visibility as to planned placement. Each cell company is only giving the City limited visibility. This is ugly! There needs to be a plan!

QUESTIONS

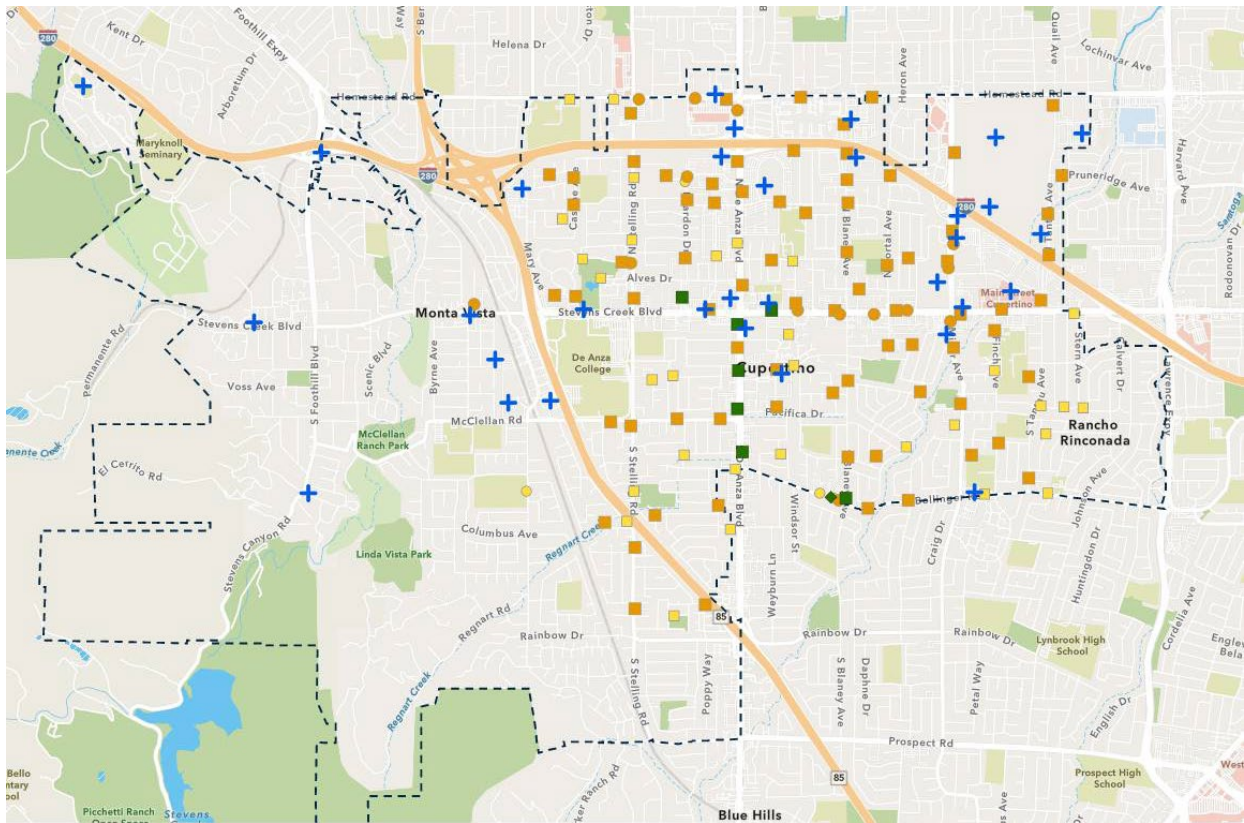
Attached are 2 pages of maps of the cell antennas from the City's web site with specific questions related to these maps.

Q1: Are cell carriers being required to use Chad Mosley's design or can each one put up their individual hodgepodge equipment?

Q2: Is the City's website map of cell towers accurate and up to date?

Q3: Based on this map...Equity of ugliness and access

- On the west side of town there are only macro cell antennas
- On the southwest side of town there are no cell antennas
- On the east side of town, they are prolific – many right on top of each other?

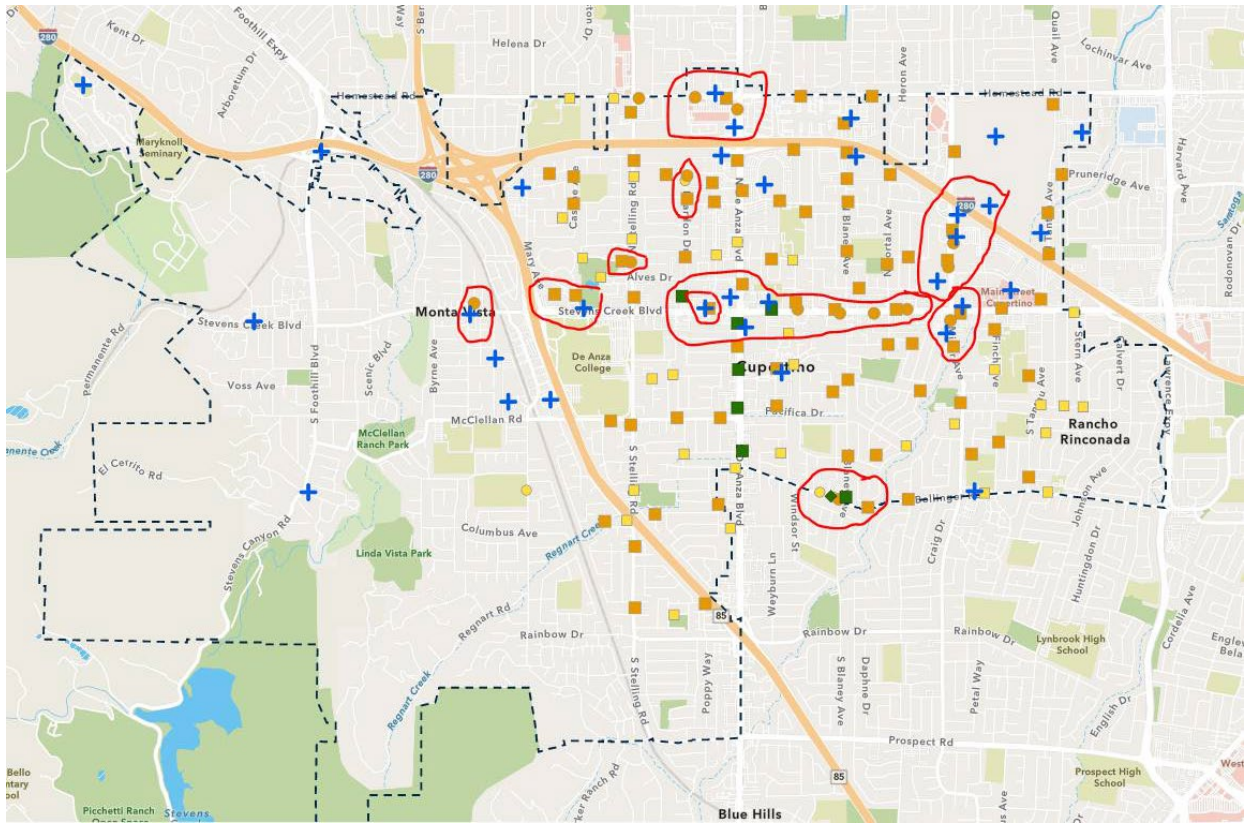


ABOVE MAP FROM CITY'S MAP: [Cupertino Cell Locations \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Looking at the second map below

Q4: Why are multiple antennas being allowed so close together?

Q5: Why are there separate antennas allowed so close to existing macro antennas (the blue +)?



SUGGESTIONS: I don't know if this is possible but...

1. The City needs to plan where these go so they are not side-by-side and become an ugly hodgepodge of equipment!
Regardless of the carrier, ANY pole needs to be a minimum of 500 ft apart.
2. Make the plan across the entire city then as needed allow installation at and on the proposed location, using the City approved pole.
3. Require that they use the same pole that Chad Mosley proposed.
4. Can the City require fiber optics instead of these for neighborhoods and schools for aesthetic reasons (ugly poles)?
5. Can the City specify the order in which installation is performed i.e. the major arterials
 - a. Along Stevens Creek Blvd from x to y, no closer than z ft, on designated poles
 - b. Along De Anza Blvd from x to y, etc
 - c. Along Foothill Blvd...
 - d. Along Stelling
 - e. Homestead Rd
6. Guidelines aren't enforceable. Make them municipal code!

Sincerely,
Peggy Griffin

2/23/21 Planning Commission Meeting

**Discussion about the aesthetics
of small cell facilities (5G)**

Comments on Aesthetics Issues

- Verizon's Proposal to Build 5G Small Cell Pole in Three Oaks Park Causes Following Problems:
 - Beautiful Park Landscape Ruined by Huge Ugly Pole
 - Obstructed Park and Mountain Views by Huge Pole
 - Mental Distress Among Residents Who No Longer Able to Enjoy Beautiful Park Views They Paid For
 - Obstructed Park & Mountain View = Reduced Property Value
 - More Carriers Like AT&T, T-Mobile, etc Will Follow Suit, If Verizon's Proposal in Three Oaks Park Gets Approved

Photos Provided By Verizon

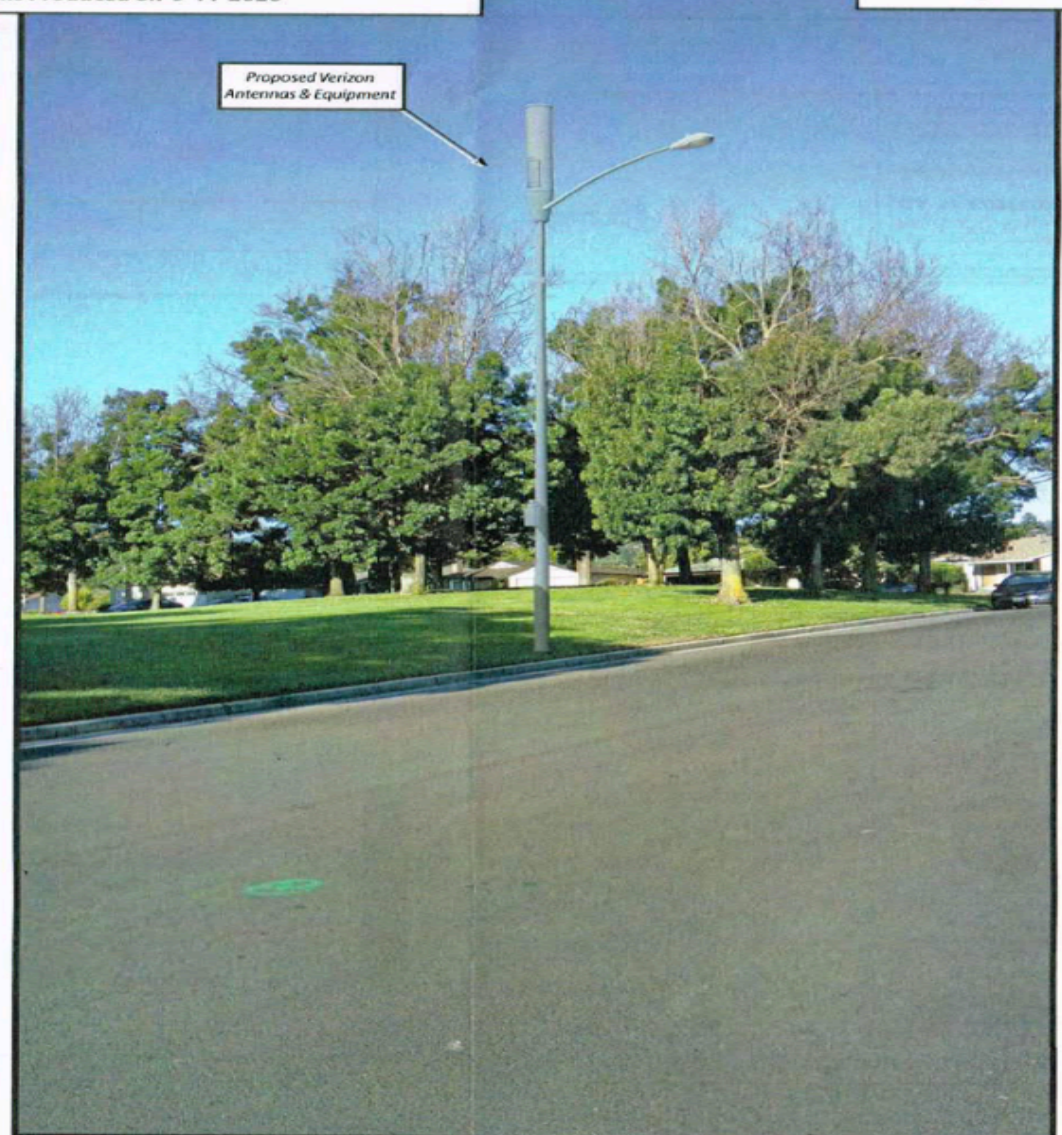
Existing



verizon

view from Moltzen Drive looking southwest at site
CA_SJ_CUPERTINO_362
7535 Shadowhill Ln, Cupertino, CA
Photosims Produced on 9-11-2020

Proposed



Proposed Verizon
Antennas & Equipment

View From Moltzen Drive Looking SW

Existing



Proposed



View From Moltzen Drive Looking South

Existing



Proposed



View From Moltzen Drive Looking Southeast

Existing



Proposed



Suggestion

- Reject Verizon's Permit Request At Three Oaks Park
- Build 5G Poles in Areas Away From Parks And Residential Houses

From: [Limin Wang](#)
To: [City of Cupertino Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Feb 23 planning commission meeting: Comments on "small cell facilities"
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:14:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Planning Commissioners,

As a Cupertino resident, I am writing to comment on the "small cell facilities" topic on Feb 23 planning commission [meeting](#) agenda. I strongly urge the city to enforce 5G regulations to better protect local residents.

For the past few months, many Cupertino residents have spoken or written to the City Council or City staff expressing their concern on the 5G cell site roll outs. Our concerns/complaints include:

- The proposed cell sites are **too close to residence homes and extremely dense**. A lot of them are in the center of the residence area. Some are right next to the residence homes (around 10 feet from the residential property line!!!). **They are deployed every few blocks in the residence area, even though the service has full coverage in the area.**
- The cell sites are prohibited within 500-1500 feet around any schools, but there is no regulation in Cupertino for these cell sites deployment in the residence area. **If the schools rules are to protect children, we need more stringent rules for residence homes** since that's where children and families spend the majority of their time.
- Attaching 5G cells that are the size of refrigerators to city poles will make poles less stable. When poles come down, they pose **significant risk for physical harm, property damage, blackout and even wildfires in dry regions.**
- 5G cell towers create **excessive noise 24/7** due to the cooling fans needed to cool the Lithium ion batteries located on the utility pole.
- [Industry research](#) has shown that cell towers **negatively impact property values** up to 20% because few buyers see it as a plus to live next to a humming cell tower.
-

Aesthetically, **cell towers are ugly** because they carry about a large refrigerator's worth of equipment that hangs off the side of the utility pole and poking high in the neighborhood.

- **The permitting/approval process should be more transparent.**

What other cities (others) have done. Based on our research on the internet, we found the followings:

- **The City of Los Altos** has placed [stringent rules](#) on small cell nodes and cell towers:
 - **Preferred location** of wireless telecommunications facilities **from most preferred to least preferred is commercial districts, public districts, mixed use districts, residential districts.**
 - Requiring **a minimum separation of 1,500 feet between each small cell facility** and be placed mid-block so they are not as obvious when placed on street corners, with additional installation height, landscape screening requirements.
 - Requiring **a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) feet away from any residentially zoned property line or any public or private school property line.**
 -
 - Requires that the **nodes cannot be within 500 feet of a school.**
 -
 - Requiring the applicant **identify at least five other feasible locations** which could achieve the applicant's intended service goals.
 - **Requiring written notice to all property owners and residents within 1000 feet in any direction of a proposed facility.** Also, residents who submit comments pursuant to a notification will receive a copy of any decision, to allow for appeals.
 - **Strict noise regulation** (maximum 45-decibel noise levels).

- Specified **posting of applications to City website within three days of receipt**, or as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- The **Palo Alto Unified School District** Board of Education unanimously requested 1,500 feet setback from all schools.
- **Petaluma, CA** requires undergrounding of ancillary equipment, 1500 ft minimum spacing of the small cells, and setbacks from residences.
- **Fairfax, CA** passed an urgency ordinance putting a pause on cell tower installations and requiring setbacks from residences, schools, etc., and the city is pursuing a high-speed fiber-optic network.
- **Mill Valley, CA** adopted an urgency ordinance to prohibit cell towers in residential zones, strengthen permitting requirements, set minimum distances and setbacks etc.
- **Ripon, CA** also has a new ordinance that requires setbacks from schools and residences. Ripon, by the way, is having a cell tower removed from a school site after a cancer cluster (with at least 3 teachers and 4 kids affected).
- **Marin County** is updating its ordinance, joined the lawsuit against the FCC and held a public meeting to discuss 5G in Marin County.
- **San Francisco** [limited 5G infrastructure for aesthetic reasons.](#)
- California senator **Dianne Feinstein** presented to the US Senate that "[Cities should decide how and where 5G is deployed. We can't ignore how potentially intrusive deployment of internet infrastructure will affect our cities](#)"

The above are examples of Cities setting up regulations to protect residents' safety and wellbeing, and preserve city and communities' peacefulness and beauty. As Cupertino residents, we sincerely hope to see the same actions are taken to protect Cupertino residents and communities.

Thank you for your consideration and hearing our voice.

Limin and Ting (Concerned residents in Cupertino)

Actions	Move from guidelines to urgent ordinances
Aesthetics	Real estate value
Aesthetics	Obstructive views of hills and park
Aesthetics	Dark skies from additional poles
Aesthetics	Non uniform standards
Aesthetics	Restrictions by zoning
Aesthetics	Street corner restrictions
Aesthetics	1500 feet spacing between any 5G cell site
Aesthetics	Not within 500 feet of a school
Aesthetics	1500 feet setback from residential property lines
Aesthetics	150 feet away from residential property line
Aesthetics	Number of vendors per pole
Aesthetics	Noise regulations
Business model	Does residential really need 5G when we have broadband and 2 choices
Notifications and Permitting	Failed notification process
Notifications and Permitting	Applicant must identify 5 other locations
Notifications and Permitting	Provisional approvals or expiration dates
Notifications and Permitting	Maps for approval. 100's of 5G cell sites on light poles
Notifications and Permitting	What do we do with other carriers
Notifications and Permitting	More proactive and transparent communications.
Notifications and Permitting	Inadequate notice. There should be a city wide notice 21 days prior is insufficient
Notifications and Permitting	Inconsistencies between residential and commercial
Safety	What happens if the pole smashes into my property
Safety	Ensuring cell towers are operating properly and not out of tolerance
Safety	Who's going to moderate