



CITY OF

Palos Verdes Estates

OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR

April 12, 2017

The Honorable Ben Hueso
California State Senate, 40th District
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 651-5940

**RE: SB 649 (Hueso) Wireless Telecommunications Facilities
Oppose**

Dear Senator Hueso:

The City of Palos Verdes Estates respectfully and strongly opposes SB 649 regarding the permitting of “small cell” wireless facilities. Simply stated, this bill provides unwarranted and unnecessary authority to telecommunication carriers without providing for appropriate City and public input. It removes local authority over public properties, allows for structures to be indiscriminately constructed at the expense of property values and privacy, reverses the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision of *Sprint v. PVE* by eliminating local discretion over aesthetics, and removes local CEQA control. In consistency with the City Council's opposition of AB 2788 (Gatto) in 2016, we again oppose SB 649 by the California State Legislature.

The City of Palos Verdes Estates is a small residential community; its unique charm results from being a planned community with no street lights or signals, narrow and winding streets, hillside homes, and over a quarter of the City designated as natural parkland. The City retains this character through strict zoning and architectural controls. Telecommunications equipment is sited through a thoughtful and reasonable process that balances the interests, needs and legal authority of residents and the wireless carrier. SB 649, on the other hand, disregards aesthetic and environmental concerns by eliminating all local authority for small cell wireless facilities for the sole benefit of telecommunications carriers.

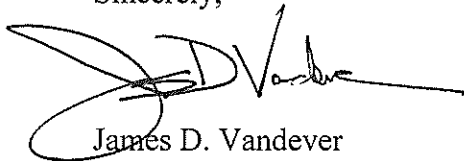
In Palos Verdes Estates, SB 649 would impose significant and possibly not obvious consequences. These include the indiscriminate placement of telecommunications equipment in view corridors, noise impacts from cooling fans placed too close to homes and within quiet neighborhoods, and insensitively designed facilities that degrade the aesthetic values of our community. We are very concerned that City properties, including parks and recreation facilities within neighborhoods, can become locations for a concentration of new and collocated facilities. Without providing for the necessary funding for staff resources, SB 649 will also burden our one City Planner with processing telecommunications applications irrespective of day-to-day responsibilities.

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Furthermore, the legislation provides no mechanism for the removal of equipment that is no longer functional or needed.

Over the past several months, Palos Verdes Estates has spent significant time on new wireless telecommunication facilities in public hearings and workshops, and our Planning Commission has recently approved over a dozen new wireless telecommunication facilities. This balanced process has resulted in the implementation of new technologies without significant disruption to the natural beauty and neighborhood character of our City. In sharp contrast, SB 649 shuts the public out of decisions that affect aesthetics, personal privacy, property values, local control and environmental impacts. The City of Palos Verdes Estates urges opposition to SB 649.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Vandever", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

James D. Vandever
Mayor

c: Palos Verdes Estates City Council
Honorable Senator Ben Allen, 26th District (916) 651-4026
Honorable Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, 66th District
Jeffrey Kiernan, League of California Cities (via e-mail)