



County of Yolo

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

Taro Echiburú, AICP
DIRECTOR

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June 20, 2016

Ms. Kiana Valentine
Legislative Representative
Housing, Land Use, and Transportation
California State Association of Counties®
1100 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Yolo County Opposition to AB 2877 (Gatto) - Wireless "Small Cell" Permitting

Dear Ms. Valentine:

Yolo County strongly opposes AB 2877 (Gatto) - Wireless "Small Cell" Permitting. Many proposed telecommunications projects have potential impacts to public road rights-of-way. We fear that AB 2877 would eliminate the ability for agencies responsible for operating and maintaining those rights-of-ways to work collaboratively with telecommunications companies, to arrive at reasonable solutions for locating and installing facilities. There are instances when proposed facilities could pose safety concerns for the travelling public, and should not be installed as proposed.

Yolo County recently denied an encroachment permit application from a telecommunications group that proposed to install eight, 120-foot tall, communications towers within County road rights-of-way. Please see Attachment A for a plan of one of these towers. Though their application stated that the group wanted to install 120-foot tall "utility poles," these types of installations are considered communications towers, and would be subject to a use permit(s) in Yolo County. Four and one half foot diameter towers (at their base) were proposed by this group to be squeezed within narrow County road rights-of-way. These locations apparently would provide optimal service to potential customers, and of additional benefit to the group, would not require property or right-of-way acquisition. We believe these installations belong on private property, outside of County roads.

If telecommunication companies were in essence granted free reign to install their facilities within public rights-of-way without agency collaboration or oversight, we fear that traffic hazards may be legally installed within California's public roadways.

Collaboration with agencies is necessary on telecommunications projects! Whether the project is for "small cell" wireless antennas, or for 120-foot tall "utility poles," Yolo County strongly opposes AB 2877 (Gatto) - Wireless "Small Cell" Permitting.

Sincerely,

Panos Kokkas, P.E.
Assistant Director, Public Works

Encl: Attachment A

