

Concerned Citizens for Old Rocky

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October 29, 2018

Mr. Jeremy Craig
City Manager, City Manager's Office
650 Merchant Street
Vacaville, CA 95688

RE: Drake's Point Radio Tower

Mr. Craig –

Thank you for the opportunity to reengage the City on the Drake's Point Radio Tower (File No. 17-342) this past week at the October 23, 2018 Council meeting. We appreciate your willingness to agendize and address the nature of the City's public outreach on projects, and to address potential mitigation for visual impacts from the project. However, the City continues to provide misinformation on the project, and has failed to respond to a number of our deep and legitimate concerns. The City is proceeding with a project that has elicited unrest and uncertainty and has demonstrated your leadership is out of touch with the concerns of your constituents. We are asking one more time that you would suspend construction on this project, facilitate open public meetings and workshops, until these key concerns can be addressed. Specifically:

1. By developing this tower, you are lifting the only protection we presently have in the municipal code against further development of telecommunications facilities on Old Rocky. Future telecommunication facilities will not even have to feign compliance with being "effectively unnoticeable", not "silhouetting against the sky", and not developing "prominent points". This single action will erase those protections, clear and simple, because they only apply on undeveloped sites. The City Council has not provided any assurance of how you will protect this site from future telecom.
2. While your police and fire have maintained there is no other viable option to Old Rocky, you have failed to produce meaningful alternatives analysis consisting of published documents showing technical proposals, performance results, cost estimates, and environmental impacts of alternatives. The extent of local alternatives analysis in the March 18, 2017 report (the only recent publication) to council consists of this statement: "CSI Telecommunications provided additional analysis in order to determine the benefit of increasing the [Station 73] tower by 100' to improve coverage with less than ideal results." We state again, this is not a viable alternatives analysis. We wish to see the studies published. No one is against the best communication possible for our police and fire; but there is a lack of transparency in the alternatives considered.

3. You have not provided professional, scaled renderings showing your proposed structure in situ and reflecting existing vegetation, from varying viewpoints (although you are quick to critique ours). This, by the way, would be the basic professional standard for any defensible CEQA analysis and certainly to maintain your assertion that the project will be “unnoticeable”.
4. You have not demonstrated how the project will be in compliance with key parts of the municipal code, specifically how it would be screened by vegetation and rendered “effectively unnoticeable”, how it would not silhouette on the City’s ridgeline, and how you can authorize development on a prominent point of the City’s ridgelines. Your City attorney could not answer definitively that you were in compliance with the law. Your Community Development Director provided erroneous information that the project had received an exception for this, when in fact the Staff Report to the City Planning Commission Agenda Item 8.A. (April 17, 2018) states the “...applicant is not requesting any exceptions to the City’s development standards.”

By the way, we have provided some visual assistance to you in understanding the true height of the tower, provided in the attached which shows balloons floating at respective elevations. Please be advised we would like these matters resolved, but if you can offer no more relief, we will pursue every remedy available to us under law.

Sincerely,



James N. Gorham, representing
Concerned Citizens for Old Rocky

Attachment

c:

Len Augustine, Mayor
Curtis Hunt, Councilmember
Dilenna Harris, Councilmember
Mitch Mashburn, Councilmember
Ron Rowlett, Councilmember
Aaron Busch, City of Vacaville
Melinda Stewart, City of Vacaville
Shana Faber, City of Vacaville
John Carli, City of Vacaville
Kris Concepcion, City of Vacaville
Michelle Thornbrugh, City of Vacaville
Barton Brierley, City of Vacaville



50' ——— 60'
————— 40'

From Centennial Park

50' ———— 60'
 40'



From Allison Drive