



P.O. Box 1079
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June 8, 2017

The Honorable Ben Hueso
California State Senate, District 40
State Capitol Building, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

RE: SB 649 (Hueso) – Wireless Telecommunications Facilities – Notice of Opposition

Dear Senator Hueso,

On behalf of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County, I write to respectfully express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 649 which eliminates public input, full local environmental and design review, and the ability for local governments to negotiate leases or any public benefit for the installation of “small cell” equipment on taxpayer funded property.

The Cities Association is a collaboration of the 15 cities in Santa Clara County that addresses pressing issues of mutual interest to cities across the region. We are concerned that while the wireless industry promises SB 649 will allow cities to keep their discretion over “small Cell” installations in their communities, we are concerned our cities will lose their full ability to negotiate any public benefit such as access for police, fire, or library services. This bill will hamper cities from reserving pole space for public safety or energy efficiency technology, negotiating a market rate lease with wireless carriers for installation of their private equipment on public taxpayer funded property, generating flexible revenue to pay for services such as police, fire, parks, and pension obligations, and allowing for public input for the location and design of “small cells” even if right outside their homes or in our communities attempting to improve their aesthetic character in key residential or business areas.

Our cities have expended considerable effort in establishing agreements with several “small cell” installers and wireless providers. These existing agreements create a consistent and fair playing field among the various providers, and possess reasonable terms that the providers have found acceptable. SB 649 would erode these efforts and would give providers who have not yet established agreements with a city an unfair advantage. Additionally, this legislation would remove local input and any incentive for local governments and the wireless industry to collaborate on the deployment of the most advanced technology.

For these reasons, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County opposes SB 649. Thank you for your leadership in California’s Legislature and hopefully you will consider our opposition to your bill for the reasons noted above.

H. Greg Scharff, Mayor, City of Palo Alto
President, Cities Association of Santa Clara County



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CC: Senators Wieckowski, Beall, Hill, Monning,
Assembly Members Caballero, Kalra, Chu, Berman, Low, Stone
League of California Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager, Seth Mille
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities