

**LAND USE COMMITTEE  
OF THE CRESCENTA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES  
June 11, 2015**

**La Crescenta Library Community Room, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, CA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:32 pm

**OPENING BUSINESS**

1. Roll Call: Present: C. Davis, P. Rabinov, J. Bodnar, M. Claessens, I. Chessum, F. Beyt, A. Ordubegian, and K. Hales. Absent: N. Englund
2. Approval of Agenda for June 11, 2015 - FB PR (Passed Unanimously)
3. Approval of Land Use Committee Minutes May 14, 2015 – PR AO (Passed Unanimously)
4. Public Comments – none on items not on agenda

**PUBLIC HEARING & ACTION ITEMS**

5. Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (“LA-RICS”) – Pat Mallon, Executive Director; Dr. Jerry Bushberg, RF Expert; and Scott Edson, Sheriff Dept.

Main Points:

- System will allow both data and voice system.
- Difficult to rely upon commercial system during times of emergencies. Public can overload the system making it difficult for the first responders to utilize.
- Could cost lives. Example, if Fire Department not able to connect to the data network.
- In future will be able to utilize next generation capabilities: text messaging, webcam to doctors, and send photos.
- Tower reduced from 70 foot elevation down to 45 foot elevation to reduce aesthetic impacts to the community.
- Works at 0.65 microwatts, 1,000 times fewer radio emissions than FCC Standards.
- Will not be building any towers at schools.
- Have not included co-location at the Sheriff Station as part of the EIR.
- Next generation 911 – will allow texting.

Cheryl requested that everyone be respectful and allow those with the floor to be allowed to speak, uninterrupted.

**Public Comments:**

**Speakers within the 1,000 foot Notice area (3 minutes each)**

Kent Woodward (2438 Fairmount Ave) – public safety is an important factor to home value. We should consider how the tower contributes to our lives. Supports tower.

Eric Sherman (2344 Mountain Ave) – Family and neighbors are against the cell tower installation. Child has had cancer and lost an eye, and has a chance of getting cancer in the future. Live behind Sheriff Station and concerned about electric emissions. Opposes tower.

Jim Goldsworthy (2338 Mountain Ave) – Are there epidemiology studies that include children? Answer: Dr. Bushberg responded that there are studies on infants, children, adults, and elderly. Dr. is being paid by the Los Angeles County RICS. LA County Firefighter Union opposes the cell towers. Why not place the tower higher up the hill? (Wants answers to questions)

James Sbardellati (2336 Mountain Ave) – Suggests putting higher up the hill. Concerned about boosting the power of the tower in the future. Opposes tower.

Michael George (4539 Briggs Ave) – Concerned about the health risk, about 200 feet away from the tower. What is the difference between low levels all the time and higher levels for a short period? Opposes tower.

Fred Hogstan (2434 Fairmount Ave) – Would like to have the site located in the Verdugo Mountains. Opposes tower.

Dr. Bushberg responds about health questions. Radiowaves are a form of electromagnetic radiation. The key thing about radiowaves is intensity. At levels below the threshold the period of time does not matter. There is no cumulative effect.

Pat Mallon responds to the location question. The cell tower needs to be in this area because the signal is needed in this area. The tower located up the hill would not provide the needed coverage. Looked for areas that included public safety sites as part of their CEQA requirement.

(Additional speaker within the 1,000' radius) John Buda (4623 Briggs Ave) - Would the tower space be sold to commercial providers for co-location?

Pat Mallon (Executive Director LA-RICS) responds that it cannot be done given the restrictions on the current proposal for installation. To allow another provider would require a new EIR and Public Hearing.

Speakers in Unincorporated La Crescenta-Montrose, but outside the 1,000' Notice area (2 minutes each)

Rola Masri (2357 Shields Street) – She had health problems until she “hard” wired her home. Concerned that FCC standards are not protective of human health. Opposes the tower.

Dave Bise (2514 Fairmount Ave) – Why at the Sheriff Station? We don't need it. You should find another place. Oppose tower.

Traci Story (La Crescenta) – Concerned about the tower being used for other purposes. City of Marina Del Rey council member opposed a tower in their community. What is the safe level of radiation exposure to pregnant women, compromised, and children?

Dr. Bushberg responds to question. To protect the public using the most restrictive on the order of 500 microwatts power density. Also keep in mind that the safety standard was not set at the

level where it would be hazardous above the level. The standard is set 50 times below hazardous levels. With respect to the California Medical Association and American Academy of Pediatrics, they are not experts in radio frequency exposure. RF waves are normally 1,000 times higher than from the base stations.

Justin Jones (2436 Fairmount Ave) – Don't support the project. Concerned about the health risks. Feels right in the middle.

~~Robbyn Battles~~

Speakers outside of Unincorporated La Crescenta-Montrose

Truc Luu (5287 La Canada) - Support the project. We need the system. The system is safe and there has been a lot of misinformation about this project.

Jonathan Sherman (3723 Third Ave, Glendale) – People have a right to be skeptical of Dr. Bushberg.

Dr. Bushberg responded that he is relying on the scientific material that is available. He is not providing his personal opinion.

Liz Barris (101 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd) – Opposes tower. No LA RICs Cancer Tower. This is a money grab with excuses for this to roll out in sensitive areas.

Ted Pao (4373 Fairlawn Drive, La Canada) – Our first responders need to have the tower to do their day-to-day operation. This is very important tools for them to have to keep our community safety.

Mark Alexander (City of La Canada Manager, 1327 Foothill Blvd) – Communications are vital to the county and community. This area is a fire prone area and we need to communicate during emergencies. Supports tower.

Winston Story (La Crescenta) – Opposes tower.

Tony Passarella – Opposes tower. We do not have a legitimate government. These towers are data mining.

Closed public Comment at 8:17 PM

Emails: Three opposed; two support.

Retired Captain Silversparre – wrote email in support of cell tower at Sheriff Station.

101 signatures submitted in opposition opposing cell tower.

Marina Del Rey – Council Member issued a request that cell site not be located in his district.

**Motion: Recommend Support Cell Tower at Sherriff Station - FB PR Passes 5-3 (Yes - CD, FB, JB, KH, & IC No - PR, MC, & AO)**

6. Project No. R2014-01923-(5); Variance No. 201400008

Cheryl read a memo from the LA County Planner clarifying the Variance application is being requested to meet Condition #1 of the Certificate of Compliance which states “Prior to any construction or grading on the subject property, the property owner shall acquire an approved Director’s Review, Lot Line Adjustment, variances or other zoning permits deemed by the Land Division Coordinating Center of the Department of Regional Planning to adequately mitigate the negative effect of the undersized lot.”

KH Recused

Peter Gonzalez – SC Planners. The properties were purchased by two different people. The property owner has a legal right to have the certificate of compliance. Two options: Yes – they grant the variance or No - the government pays for the taking of the property.

Jim Gordon (5845 Edmund) – Recommend that the Certificate be revoked. Briggs Terrace has insufficient ingress and egress. They had a staged emergency drill that resulted in traffic jam. Don’t think we should allow additional dwellings.

Sharon Raghavachary (2209 Maurice Ave.) – Opposed to granting the variance for this project. Recipe for disaster building on such a small lot.

Harry Swope (5903 Canyonside Road) – Oppose variance. We don’t need a new house of that size put on a substandard lot.

Resident on Manzanita Lane – Concerned about the egress in the area and density of area. Opposes approval of the project and is detrimental to overall neighborhood.

Petition opposes from neighbors with fourteen signatures.

Closed Public Comment: 8:51 PM

There is misinformation and a Staff Report dated 6/16/15 had been forwarded to the LUC on 6/8/15 via e-mail, as well as e-mails back and forth to the Regional Planning Assistant II, all with erroneous information prior to the meeting, and the correct Variance sheet received only minutes prior to the meeting.

IC noted that the Condition to the Certificate of Compliance requiring “to adequately mitigate the impact of the Undersized lot”, has not been addressed; this being the Condition for the granting of the Certificate of Compliance and subsequently a Variance for the Undersized Lot.

**Motion: Recommend denial of variance. MC PR (Recused KH) 4-3 (Yes - MC, PR, IC, JB; No - CD, FB, & AO)**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

7. None

**FUTURE PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

8. None

**EARLY NOTIFICATION / APPLICATIONS FILED AT DEPT. REGIONAL PLANNING**

9. None

**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

10. None

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:15 pm