

Dear Commissioners:

I urge you to deny the Use Permit for the Verizon cell towers tonight. It is clearly inconsistent with our Historical Ordinance, our Building Alterations ordinance, our Architectural Review Ordinance, their implementing Design Guidelines, and our General Plan.

Just because the previous commission approved the architectural design does not mean that you have to approve the actual project. As you know, you have complete discretion to deny the use permit as long as you give rational reasons. You don't even have to quote text from any ordinances. Here are some of the reasons that could be used in your Findings:

1. It is inconsistent with the General Plan. An overall objective of the General Plan is to preserve the City's historic appearance. This project clearly violates that goal. You as Commissioners are the interpreters of the General Plan and can confidently make this statement.
2. It is not needed. It is not needed for public safety and there are other, better locations.
3. The towers will cause negative visual and Historic District impacts that will harm our locally treasured and nationally important Historic District. Regardless of the previous design review conducted, the project will create visual impacts that rise to a level appropriate to denying the use permit. It will alter the view of the historic courthouse from our most prominent intersection. It would be the most modern alteration ever allowed in the Historic District. It is certainly more impacting than some of the sign permits we have denied. And it will add futuristic visual clutter to a Historic District which the community worked hard to improve when we at great cost removed the ugly clutter of 1950s era streetlights and overhead electrical wires and utility poles that had so damaged her Motherlode era appearance.

I hope you will continue our legacy of protecting the character of our Historic District and deny the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Use Permit.

Thank you,

Laurie Oberholtzer, Past Planning Commission Chair

310 Nevada St., Nevada City

August 11, 2016