COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
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TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

April 9, 2008

AGENDA DATE: April 29,2008

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: Status of Cell Tower Radio Frequency Radiation Monitoring Compliance

Members of the Board:

On March 4, 2008, your Board directed staff to report back today on the status of cell tower radio-frequency (RF) monitoring compliance. As you recall, the County's Wireless Communication Facilities (WCF) Ordinance (County Code Section 13.10.664[b]) requires the operators of all cell towers and other WCFs approved since June 2001 to submit a radio-frequency (RF) radiation monitoring report for such WCFs, shortly after commencement of operations. This report must be prepared by an independent third-party RF engineer and must compare the peak-time operation RF emission levels of the subject cell site to the FCC limit for such emissions.

As staff reported to your Board back in 2007, these required RF monitoring reports had not been received for many of the WCFs subject to the requirement. To remedy this situation, staff sent out notices to all the cell phone carriers in the County, reminding them of their responsibility to submit these reports. Staff is now pleased to announce that all of the wireless carriers have recently achieved full compliance with this requirement. Copies of the reports are available for public review. It should be noted that the average measured RF radiation emission levels for the 66 cell sites for which reports have been submitted is less than 3% of the FCC limit for such emissions.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this report.

Sincerely,

Tom Burns
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

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CBD BOSMAIL

From: CBD BOSMAIL
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2008 12:40 PM
To: CBD BOSMAIL
Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date : 4/29/2008

Item Number : 28

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Comments :
Dear Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Planning Department and City Council of Santa Cruz,

I write to you once again regarding the electromagnetic radiation exposure that has been thrust upon our community through the unchecked proliferation of wireless devices. This issue has reached a higher level of urgency for me as the tree, which shielded my home from my neighborhood cell tower, was recently cut down and the increased exposure has caused me to become even more sensitive to emr. My house is approximately 300 feet from the wcf located at 1240 Soquel Avenue, SC. I had the radiation level tested last year at my home and this is how I discovered the tower. Neither I nor the person with the radiation detector are experts in this field and I cannot give you numbers, however the meter went to the highest level when it was held in direct line of sight to the wcf at my kitchen window. There was a large tree on a neighbor's property, which shielded my house, and the radio frequency levels were not extreme in the rest of the house. The tree was cut down a month ago and I had the house retested. There are now high levels throughout the living room and in the yard. I keep to my bedroom, which is in the back of the house, but even here I can feel that the ambient level of radiation has gone up. This situation is totally unacceptable. I am aware of what is causing me harm, but many people are being harmed by cell towers and they have no idea as to what is really going on.

My understanding is that the cell tower monitoring reports are to be reported on at the BoS meeting on 4/29. I have to say that to allow the telecom industry to police itself is a joke. I am currently reading Cellular Telephone Russian Roulette by Robert C. Kane. Mr. Kane was employed by the telecommunications industry for more than thirty years. He holds a BSEE from the Midwest College of Engineering, an MSEE with an emphasis on electromagnetics from the Illinois Institute of Technology and also at the Illinois Institute of Technology, has completed the full course of study and research leading to a Ph.D. in electrical engineering with an emphasis in the fields of electromagnetics and solid-state physics. As a research scientist and product engineer, he has been directly involved with programs and projects for the design and development of portable cell phones, radio frequency mobile radios, microwave telecommunications systems, video display systems and biological effects research.

His book, published in 2001, gives a historical and scientific perspective of the public deception the telecommunications industry has conducted regarding the adverse health effects from exposure to the microwave radiation from wireless devices. There are studies dating back to the 1950s, which demonstrate the damage done by this exposure. It has not been comforting for me to read this book and find my symptoms throughout its pages. It makes me very angry that I and millions of other people are suffering due to the lies and cover ups from this industry.

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I have purchased a microwave detector and will start to monitor the levels of radiation at my home and in our community as soon as it is delivered. I will be testing for hot spots. These are spots where the radiation levels are increased due to attenuation or other factors. According to Mr. Kane there are many factors that must be considered regarding the levels of radiation and the tests done by the industry are completely inadequate. Mr. Kane explains the physics as to why children's heads absorb more radiation and how the industry has deemed that it is acceptable that some people will die from their exposure to this radiation. I recommend that you all read the book. I will be returning it to the library when I am done. I have only one disagreement with Mr. Kane and that is over the title of his book - Cellular Telephone Russian Roulette as there are no blanks in this wager. None of us are immune. It is only the degree of our exposure and our physiological make up which determine how we will be affected.

Here are some more disturbing findings of Dr. Kane's:

*The energy radiated from the antenna of a cell phone is comprised of 1.7x1023 Photons each second (170,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)

*An X-ray emits 1 Million photons (1,000,000)

*The typical radiation from a cell phone is equivalent in magnitude to about 1.7x1017 (170,000,000,000,000,000) x-ray photons per second .

*This is why the radiation from cell phones causes so much damage.

*Russia has a radiofrequency radiation exposure level that is !,000 times lower than the U.S.

*50 - 72% of the radiation from a cell phone is absorbed into the brain and this leads to hot spots within the first 60 - 90 seconds of use.

*The Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) exists because the cellular industry and the U.S. government know that the microwaves are absorbed and they deem that some brain damage is acceptable.

And just to let you know, Mr. Kane himself died from a brain tumor three years ago.

The world is facing an epidemic of brain tumors due to cell phone use. Recently Dr. Vini G. Khurana, MBBS, BSC(Med), Phd, FRACS issued a mobile phone brain tumor public health advisory. This can be accessed at http://www.brain-surgery.us./mobilephone.html. According to Dr. Khurana, his Web-based publication on March 20, 2008, follows 15 months of objective research by the author, involving the critical review of scores of sources in the recent medical and scientific literature, in addition to Press reports and Internet content. This e-paper represents a systematic and concise yet comprehensive review of this area to date and its findings highlight an emerging global public health concern. Dr. Khurana warns us:

. The "incubation time" or "latency" (i.e., the time from commencement of regular mobile phone usage to the diagnosis of a malignant solid brain tumor in a susceptible individual) may be in the order of 10-20 years. In the years 2008-2012, we will have reached the appropriate length of follow-up time to begin to definitively observe the impact of this global technology on brain tumor incidence rates.
. There is currently enough evidence and technology available to warrant Industry and Governments alike in taking immediate steps to reduce exposure of consumers to mobile phone-related electromagnetic radiation and to make consumers clearly aware of potential dangers and how to use this technology sensibly and safely.
. It is anticipated that this danger has far broader public health ramifications than asbestos and smoking, and directly concerns all of us, particularly the younger generation, including very young children.

As someone who does not own a cell phone I find it completely unacceptable that I must be radiated by those who do. As I now live with a high level of exposure I have become even more sensitive to this radiation. This is making life extremely difficult for me, as I now have to limit my time at locations that have wifi and where there are concentrations of people with cell phones. This is not how I want to live my life. I want these wcfs out of our neighborhoods. What is happening to me is happening to people all over the world and will happen to more and more people as they reach their tipping point of exposure to emr.

There was a recent article about Brian Stein. Mr. Stein is the CEO of Samworth Brothers, a billion dollar corporation in the UK. Mr. Stein is electrosensitive and attributes his sensitivity to his years of using a cell phone. Mr. Stein started using mobile phones in the late 1980s. Seven years ago he started having "weird sensations" and feeling pains in his ear, but kept on using his phones. "One day I felt a very severe pain, like my eardrum was bursting. I couldn't tolerate putting the mobile phone to my head from then on," he said.

He also said he spent approximately $40,000 (UK) to shield his home from ambient microwaves. I do not envy him his sensitivity, but I do envy his ability to protect himself. Very few of us have the discretionary income to provide any truly adequate shielding. (http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2213221/electrical-sensitivity-analysis?page=1)

According to Andrew Goldsworthy:

http://www.hese-project.org/hese-uk/en/niemr/cellfeedback.php

"People living close to mobile phone masts (base stations) frequently report symptoms of electromagnetic hypersensitivity such as dizziness, headaches, skin conditions, allergies and many others, the mechanisms for which are only just beginning to be understood.

There is also growing anecdotal evidence for cancer clusters forming around them. However, we are regularly told by the mobile phone industry that these base stations are safe because their microwave radiation falls off rapidly with distance and is far too low to generate significant heat. Sadly, this is not true. It is based on the false assumption that it is only their heating effect that can cause damage and a serious misunderstanding of the ways in which living organisms use negative feedback to respond to changes in their environment, including the metabolic insults from mobile phones."

I wonder how many people have to get brain tumors and cancer before we will take action to protect ourselves. It is not a fate that I want for myself or for my neighbors. I wonder if there has been any attempt to analyze data regarding cancer rates in proximity to cell towers particularly in the City of Santa Cruz where these towers practically sit on people's homes. I wonder if you all even care.

Recently the town of Sebastopol rejected a plan to wifi the entire city. Paris uninstalled a system in the public libraries. Warnings are issued continuously to avoid extreme exposure and yet the city of Santa Cruz has plans to become part of 1,500-mile seamless wifi network. You may as well start stocking up on coffins and prepare the nursing homes for the influx of early onset Alzheimer's cases. I can only end by saying it is very frustrating to have done so much research into this issue and then to be completely dismissed by people who toe the industries line whose own admissions are that it is acceptable that they are causing harm. They know children are more susceptible. They know this and they just don't care.

I sincerely hope that this issue is placed as the priority it is. It is time for you to stand up and fight for our health. Believe me, I and thousands of other people spend as much time as we can raising awareness on this public health crisis, but we need our government leaders to join in and enact laws and issue warnings to protect the people they represent.

Sincerely submitted,

4/28/2008

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4/28/2008