

OC Development/Planning
Attn: Ms. Scarlet Duggan
601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701
Re: Proposed Cell Towers

November 27, 2025

Dear Ms. Duggan,
My name is Gale Atwood and I have lived at [REDACTED] Drive in Corona del Mar since 1987.

I am writing to protest AT&T and Verizon's application to build two 40 foot tall cell towers next to Surrey Drive in the Cameo Highlands neighborhood. I live one block away from this proposed location.

The homes on Surrey Drive are next to Cameo Association's Surrey Park which is adjacent to a forested slope by the Newport Coast Golf Course.

To build cell towers next to Surrey Drive would locate them in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone. After the Los Angeles fires last winter, Cameo Highlands was re-classified from a low risk area to a high risk fire area. Our home owners' insurance policies are being increased due to the LA fires and we will suffer even more insurance increases if cell phone towers are located close to our residences.

If cell towers are located close to high risk Surrey Drive, that would require severe modifications- thus having a negative impact on the integrity of our neighborhood.

First-Most likely Surrey Park would be lost or if modified- There are health and safety concerns about being near or under cell towers + telecom equipment.

Second- There would be a negative environmental impact when an unknown numbers of the trees, shrubs, cactus, and native plants are removed to make a fire break- Additionally, the Surrey Drive slope area provides a save haven for animals (which are regularly "eliminated" by the adjacent golf course personnel)

Third: After the vegetation is removed from the Surrey Drive slope, the barren ground would be replaced by some sort of concrete support structure as well as hundreds of gallons of diesel fuel tanks, back up generators, large storage batteries. The natural beauty of that area would be lost and home values would suffer.

THERE IS A BETTER ALTERNATIVE: MOVE THE CELL TOWERS AWAY FROM SURREY DRIVE AND CLOSER TO THE GOLF COURSE. THE GOLF COURSE AREA IS MUCH SAFER.

Sincerely,
Gale Atwood - [REDACTED]

Gale M. Atwood

Reference # PA 25-0072
OCFA SR # 2500 4916

Brian Siegers- Fire Prevention Analyst
Fire Prevention Department
P.O Box 57115
Irvine, CA 92619-7115

November 30, 2025

Re: County Reference #PA25-0072
OCFA Service Request #25004916
Tract 14131 , Lot: 01, Newport Beach, CA

Dear Mr. Siegers,

I am writing in response to my reading of the copy of your report of 10/15/2025 which you sent to Scarlet Duggan re: AT&T /Verizon's proposal to locate-adjacent to Surrey Road in Cameo Highlands, Corona del Mar- the following:

- two 40 foot cell towers
- 275 gallons of diesel fuel tanks
- 57 kilowatts of back up generators
- two large storage batteries.

You determined that Fire Authority would accept the AT&T/Verizon proposal if certain requirements were met—mainly to clear vegetation for a minimum of 100 feet . I concluded that this " minimum clearance" would have no distance limits and could be much greater and done without regard for maintaining Cameo's Surrey Park, existing landscaping or concern for the beauty of the Cameo Highlands neighborhood. Is there a clearance limit? What assurances do Cameo residents have that the cell towers and clearing will not decrease home values, increase risk of fires and cause homeowners insurance rates to rise?

As a California native and resident of the Cameo Community Association since 1987, I know the fire risks. I know that strong winds whipping through canyons and gullies can send sparks and embers flying long distances. I know friends who lost their homes in the LA fires last winter. I know my homeowner's insurance increased because Cameo Highlands was reclassified from a low risk area to a high risk area. And I know that cell towers are necessary.

However:

When you made your recommendation re: Fire Authority approval contingent upon clearing vegetation, did you also consider making an alternative recommendation to move the cell towers away from homes. Understand that Cameo residents feel that Cell Towers are too close to homes and it would be better to MOVE THE TOWERS UP HILL – AWAY FROM CAMEO HIGHLANDS. The golf course area is an irrigated, grassy, open space and wet grass is not as combustible as houses. Please reconsider and recommend that the cell towers be relocated away from the Cameo Highlands neighborhood.

Gale Atwood

