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**From:** Julie Horal [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 2:16 PM  
**To:** planningweb <planningweb@cityofmerced.org>  
**Subject:** Permit #25-0006 previously #25-0001

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City of Merced Planning Commission  
678 West 18th Street  
Merced, Ca 95340

May 4, 2025

RE: Use Permit #25-0006 previously Permit #25-0001

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am a homeowner on El Portal Drive and I join other residents of the Oakmont Village area in strongly opposing the propose site location to build a 55-ft-tall stealth mono-palm cell tower and an 8x8 walk in closet shelter on a 11.3 parcel located at 3400 Parsons Avenue. While the public notice states this area is a low density (LD) Residential area and a Zoning designation of R-1-6, I disagree. I would like to bring attention to the following points:

1. HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS: According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the long term effects of low RF radiation from cell towers on humans is cancer. The RF radiation heats up body tissues that cause cancer. The American Cancer Society stated on 2024 while the constant daily exposure of low RF radiation will increase cancer risk, genetic damage, memory issues and impacts on the nervous system. While one might argue that ones cell phone and a microwave in a home could do that same, the big difference a cell tower omits RF radiation twenty-four(24) hours a day, seven days a week. There is no turning it off. My back fence to where the cell tower will be placed is less than 200 feet. The continuous exposure is extremely concerning. Attached our pictures of my backyard and in the grouping of palm trees where the tower will be. The AT&T representative, Carl Jones, stated in the April 3, 2025 meeting the residences “effected” would not have a site line view of it. This was a false statement by Mr. Jones.

2. IMPACT ON PROPERTY VALUES: There are numerous studies which suggest cells towers in a residential neighborhood negatively impact the value of the homes. This is an unfair burden to the homeowners of this neighborhood that worked hard and invested in this community. My sister in law is a realtor and she confirmed a cell tower in close proximity to a home lowers the value of a home due to the health risks it provides.

3. CITY OF MERCED DENIAL OF CELL TOWER: According to the minutes on January 6, 2025, the Merced City Council agreed with the residence that live near 1717 E. Olive Avenue and Parsons Avenue. That was the original location for the cell tower and the permit was denied by the city council because they recognized and validated the residences concerns in that area. The city council denied the permit based on, “ The visual impact, health risks radio frequency, and the effects on home values.”

I respectfully urge the commission to recognize the following concerns and find another location where the homeowners of the City of Merced will not be impacted. The city council recognized and acknowledged the health concerns as well as the decreased property values. My question is, how can you justify moving to a park that is always full of families, where Cruickshank Elementary is close by and there are homes that surround the park? The concerns the City Council acknowledged in January are no different than the concerns I and my neighbors have today.

Thank you,  
Julie Horal

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