

Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>

*Correspondence rec'd
Feb. 6th meeting*

Form submission from: Contact us

1 message

Chris Mack <info@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us

City of Carmel-By-The-Sea

Tue, Feb 6, 2024 at 9:58 AM

FEB 06 2024

Office of the City Clerk



02/06/2024 - 9:58am

City of Carmel »

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by anonymous user: [174.194.131.162]

Your name:

Chris Mack

Your e-mail:

[REDACTED]

Message:

Dear Council

I believe Esperanza should not get the Mills Act benefits for the Frank Lloyd Wright house. The Mills Act specifies all the benefit money be spent on up keep of house. The house was purchased for approximately \$22million. I doubt the applicant is in financial hardship and this applicant would be a fool to let this home fall into disrepair. The property will only increase in value and if the applicant chooses to not up keep the property then it their loss not the cities. I believe the Mill Act is intended to help those property owners who are more financially challenged the this applicant. Besides , maybe the property tax money from this property could be spent on the new police station. I'm not in favor of giving handouts to ultra wealthy property owners. Also didn't Esperanza ask for a mills act for another property? They are gaming the system.

Thank you

Chris Mack
Carmel

CONTEXT INFORMATION

Profile contacted:
[City Clerk](#)

[View results](#)

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Carmel-by-the-Sea

correspondence - Feb. 6th meeting
rec'd
Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>

The FOA Reference For Fiber Optics - Fiber To The Antenna for Wireless

1 message

Mike McWalters [redacted] Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 7:40 PM
To: dpotter@ci.carmel.ca.us, brichards@ci.carmel.ca.us, Karen Ferlito <kferlito@ci.carmel.ca.us>, jbaron@ci.carmel.ca.us, adramov@ci.carmel.ca.us, Chip Rerig <crerig@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Robert Harary <rharary@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Brandon Swanson <bswanson@ci.carmel.ca.us>
Cc: Nova Romero <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Hi Nova, Please include this in "Public Correspondence" for the 2/6/24 City Council meeting or if that's cancelled, then the City Council meeting when it's on the agenda. Thank you

<https://www.thefoa.org/tech/ref/appln/FTTA.html>

Dear Mayor Potter, Mayor ProTem Richards, Councilmembers Ferlito, Baron, Dramov, City Administrator Rerig, Director Harary & Director Swanson,

Please find enclosed an article from The Fiber Optic Association.

Please scroll to the 4th paragraph titled "Fiber to the Antenna".

It became apparent to me after reading this article that the proposed Wave/Astound fiber optic installation is for Verizon. I also learned that Astound is a subcontractor for Verizon.

Verizon's fiber network is the backbone for their wireless network so the project map makes it apparent to me that the route chosen was to hook up the fiber to Verizon's tower on the Dowd Arcade & also to hook up the fiber to Verizon's antennas on the Sunset Center roof.

Why wasn't this explained in the Staff Reports?

Because fiber is the backbone of Verizon's wireless network, this fiber optic project must start over & follow the protocol in our wireless ordinance.

Wave/Astound has to begin again with the CBTS' Planning & Building & then present to the Planning Commission.

There are big gaps in the report besides the Verizon omission.

For example, why isn't there an explanation for not putting all of the fiber optic cable underground?

Why do the telephone poles need guy wires?

How do you stress test the telephone poles to know which ones need guy wires or do they all need guy wires?

From the 10/3/23 Staff Report under "Background Summary", 5th paragraph, is the following sentence:

"Additionally, Wave will install up to 9 support anchors & guy wires to reinforce certain existing power poles." Why?

Why did Wave/Astound pay \$19,306 towards an "Encroachment Permit" before the Permit was issued?

Under "Prior City Council Action" from 10/3/23 Staff Report is the following: "In September 2018, Council received a project presentation & authorized issuance of an Encroachment Permit with Special Conditions of Approval for a PG&E gas pipeline project installed across the northern portion of the city."

Why are you mentioning "a gas pipeline project" in a fiber optic staff report?

In the 2/6/24 Staff Report under "Background" is the following sentence: "At the 10/3/23 City Council meeting, Public Works staff & a representative of Wave Astound Broadband (Wave) presented a proposed Fiber Optic Project that has been in review in some form with the City since 2017." Is this supposed to reassure us that Wave/Astound has been properly vetted? It doesn't reassure me.

When Wave/Astound has answered all of our questions & been thoroughly transparent, then our vetting process of them will be complete.

Michael McWalters, Scenic Road 2N of 11th

PS. Has Verizon's lawsuit against us concluded?

Sent from my iPhone

City of Carmel-By-The-Sea

FEB 06 2024

Office of the City Clerk



Carmel-by-the-Sea

Correspondence Rec'd February 10th meeting
Nova Romero <romero@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Astound-Safety Dangers

'Tasha Witt' via cityclerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Fri, Feb 2, 2024 at 3:32 PM

Reply-To: Tasha Witt [REDACTED]

To: adramov@ci.carmel.ca.us, Bobby Richards <brichards@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Dave Potter <dpotter@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Karen Ferlito <kferlito@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Jeff Baron <jbaron@ci.carmel.ca.us>, City Clerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

City Clerk please add this public comment to the Astound city council agenda for 2/6.
Thank you

City of Carmel-By-The-Sea

FEB 02 2024

City Council Members,

Office of the City Clerk

The Astound proposal is on the 2/6 City Council agenda #8. The staff report did not address the public and council's questions from the 10/3 meeting concerning safety and responsibility.

Here are some links verifying that the California Public Utilities Commission cannot ensure our safety from electrical risk of overloading our telephone poles with joint utilities. There is a history of electrical fire death and destruction due to overloading telephone poles with joint utilities.

"The general allegation for the cause of the recent fire in 2023 Lahaina, Maui against the telecommunications company is that it overloaded shared utility poles with equipment. The overloaded and destabilized some of the poles. The lawyers said the cables were attached in a way that put too much tension on the poles, causing them to lean and break in the winds on Aug. 8 when flames burned down much of Lahaina, killing at least 115 people and destroying more than 2,000 structures."

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/11/spectrum-seeks-to-move-lahaina-fire-case-to-honolulu-court/>

Overloaded joint utility poles spark 2007 Malibu fire causing death and destruction:

<https://www.latimes.com/local/la-xpm-2011-oct-23-la-me-utility-pole-fines-20111023-story.html>

"Poorly maintained utility poles and attachments have caused substantial property damage and repeated loss of life in the state. These safety issues have increased at the same time that advanced telecommunications technologies have driven demand for access to utility poles and conduit to unprecedented levels. Further, there is not a shared data repository to track where the utility poles are located and information about the condition of the poles."

<https://www.latimes.com/local/la-xpm-2011-oct-23-la-me-utility-pole-fines-20111023-story.html>

"California has the strictest utility pole safety rules in the country, yet has continually faced disastrous and deadly conditions."

"My CPUC colleagues and I ordered many of these conditions to be fixed, strengthened utility pole safety rules, and increased the authority of the CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division to hold electric, telecommunications, and Internet companies accountable for CPUC rule violations. Despite these efforts, the CPUC's enforcement process remains hampered by antiquated information systems, spotty reporting of rule violations, limited enforcement resources, aging infrastructure designs and resources, and a system that tolerates rule violations that persist for years."

<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/all-about-ethics/principles-for-utility-regulation-in-the-face-of-increasing-wildfire-risk/>

Tasha Witt



**Carmel-
by-the-Sea**

Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Request to postpone CC meeting 2/6

'Tasha Witt' via cityclerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 12:44 PM

Reply-To: Tasha Witt [REDACTED]

To: City Clerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Chip Rerig <crerig@ci.carmel.ca.us>

I apologize for my prior auto spell mistakes. To clarify...

City Administrator and City Clerk,

I request a postponement of the City Council meeting scheduled for 2/6 due to power outage and lack of public access to information.

Thank you,

Tasha Witt

>

> City Administrator and City Clerk,

>

> I request a postpone if the City Council meeting scheduled for 2/6 due to the current power outage due to lack of public access to information.

>

> Tasha Witt

>

> On Feb 5, 2024, at 12:35 PM, Tasha Witt <tashawitt@me.com> wrote:

>

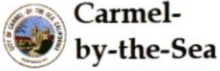
> City Administrator and City Clerk,

[Quoted text hidden]

City of Carmel-By-The-Sea

FEB 05 2024

Office of the City Clerk



Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Fwd: Astound: 4 Reasons for Denial

'Tasha Witt' via cityclerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>
Reply-To: Tasha Witt <[REDACTED]>
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Tue, Feb 6, 2024 at 7:33 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tasha Witt <tashawitt@me.com>
Date: February 3, 2024 at 12:43:57 AM PST
To: Dave Potter <dpotter@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Bobby Richards <brichards@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Jeff Baron <jbaron@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Karen Ferlito <kferlito@ci.carmel.ca.us>, adramov@ci.carmel.ca.us
Subject: Re: Astound: 4 Reasons for Denial

I want to be clear that I am not opposed to hardwired broadband internet and hardwired telephone service. Carmel residents already have access to hardwired broadband internet and hardwired telephone services from Comcast/Xfinity and AT&T utility services. I'm opposed to unnecessary or redundant industrial clutter. I'm opposed to industrial equipment causing physical hazards. I am for under-grounding all overhead utility equipment to better enjoy our natural aesthetics views and to improve our safety.

Last winter a tree caught on fire near my Carmel neighborhood (I believe from a loose electric cable wire which had been cut by a fallen tree branch). At my previous Carmel residence, a transformer blew on highway 1 and a fire ran up the brush and tree covered hill toward our residence filling our living room with smoke. Fortunately, it wasn't windy in both scenarios and firefighters were able to extinguish the fires in both instances.

City of Carmel-By-The-Sea
FEB 06 2024
Office of the City Clerk



Urgent Alert. There is a fire in
between Carmel Hills and High
Meadow. Blown transformer.

Posted to Carmel Hills

We cannot ignore the risks of adding additional overhead electrical equipment in Carmel.

Our community is too vulnerable to overload our utility poles with more electrical equipment.

As you can see this concern keeps me up late at night writing letters to my council members!

Tasha Witt

On Feb 2, 2024, at 7:27 PM, Tasha Witt <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear City Council Members,

I have reviewed the "Astound" proposal and construction plans at the Public Works Department.

I am certain that the Astound proposal is a very bad idea for our community and must be denied. The staff report confirms that our community has the right to deny this proposal based on aesthetics and traffic impacts. A third reason for denial is to protect our community's overall safety from electrical fire risk because we our geography makes us uniquely vulnerable. A fourth reason is the community does not need or want this service.

#1) Deny this proposal because our community's physical geography makes us vulnerable to electrical fire risk. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) documents they do not have enough systems in place to monitor the safety of increased infrastructure on telephone poles. There is a pattern in which the collective weight of joint utilities has caused telephone pole failure and electrical fire in communities resulting in great destruction and numerous deaths. The 2007 Malibu fire and the recent 2023 Lahaina, Maui Fire are two of the largest examples of death and destruction caused by joint utilities overloading poles coupled with high winds. The CPUC actually recommends all telephone poles be clear of trees. Carmel by the Sea is already vulnerable to electrical fire and power outages by our existing overhead electrical cables entangled through our upper canopy forest AND our high coastal windstorms ever increasing with climate change. There is no reason to put our community in increased danger by adding another joint utility to our telephone poles. Our City Attorney, Brian Pierik and our City Council have a duty to protect our safety.

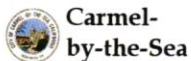
#2) Deny this proposal because it does not meet the aesthetic goals of our community. We do not have to accept Astound's proposal for additional adverse visual clutter against the goals of Carmel's general plan. The public does not want more ugly overhead cable wires, sidewalk ground vaults and 9 additional guy wires extending from telephone poles anchored to the ground.

#3) Deny this proposal because it impedes precious traffic access within our community. Carmel is unique is that our roads are narrow and not paved to full width. Our emergency vehicles are unable to make turn outs on our roads and we have limited ingress and egress routes in case of emergency. We cannot accept the 9 additional guy wires on our telephone poles necessary to support the increased structural weight over 56 of our aging poles. We must keep our valuable sidewalks and green spaces clear of guy wire impediments. All green spaces are utilized for valuable parking and pedestrian access. Carmel is uniquely absent of street lamps to preserve the night sky which also makes guy wires an increased pedestrian hazard or vehicle impediment.

#4) Deny this proposal because the community does not need or want this service. The Astound proposal meets the applicants business goals, but it does not meet our community's needs or wants, it does not meet our community's aesthetic goals, it does not meet our community's traffic goals or our community safety goals.

You are not required to accept this proposal. You only need one reason to legally deny this proposal and there are 4 clear reasons to deny this proposal to meet the community goals of Carmel by the Sea.

Thank you for your service in protecting our community,
Tasha Witt



Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Fwd: Carmel by the Sea Aesthetics & Overhead Electrical Danger Related to Astound Proposal

'Tasha Witt' via cityclerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>
Reply-To: Tasha Witt
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Tue, Feb 6, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tasha Witt
Date: February 6, 2024 at 2:10:15 PM PST
To: Dave Potter <dpotter@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Bobby Richards <brichards@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Jeff Baron <jbaron@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Karen Ferlito <kferlito@ci.carmel.ca.us>, adramov@ci.carmel.ca.us, Chip Rerig <crerig@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Brian Pierick <bpierik@ci.carmel.ca.us>
Subject: Carmel by the Sea Aesthetics & Overhead Electrical Danger Related to Astound Proposal

City Attorney Brian Pierick, City Administrator Chip Rerig, Mayor Dave Potter and City Council Members Baron, Ferlito and Dramov,

We are depending on our City Council to protect our aesthetics and ensure our safety from overhead utilities.

I would like the City Council to get more information from our City Attorney in regard to our city's rights to be able to protect our community's safety and aesthetics from overhead utility proposals. At the bottom of my letter I have outlined 5 questions for our City Attorney.

The most recent utility proposal to City Council is by Astound Broadband by Wave for overhead fiber optic. It is dangerous to have heavy fiber optic bundle wires overhead. They are much heavier than the Comcast type coaxial cables we currently have. Their fiber optic repeaters are also much heavier. Fiber optic bundles should be undergrounded as other communities require, especially due to our community's unique geographic vulnerabilities.

The 2007 Malibu Fire and the 2023 Lahaina Fire's main cause is overloading of joint utilities on telephone poles coupled with wind. Carmel-by-the-Sea has the added vulnerability of overhead electrical cables routed through its urban forest. The city has plenty of documentation that outlines tree branches cut or pull down overhead wires and/or telephone poles during rain and coastal wind storms.

The Astound Broadband by Wave Proposal plans over 11 thousand feet of HEAVY fiber optic bundle wires OVERHEAD on our telephone poles. Also, the fiber optic repeaters are also heavier. We also don't have the company's full infrastructure plans (this appears to be their stage 1 proposal through the north side of town).

Here is a 2020 photo of what fiber optic bundles look like on a pole on Pacific Street in Monterey. This pole came down due to being overburdened by overhead fiber optic bundles which are HEAVY, THICK and UGLY. Photo:

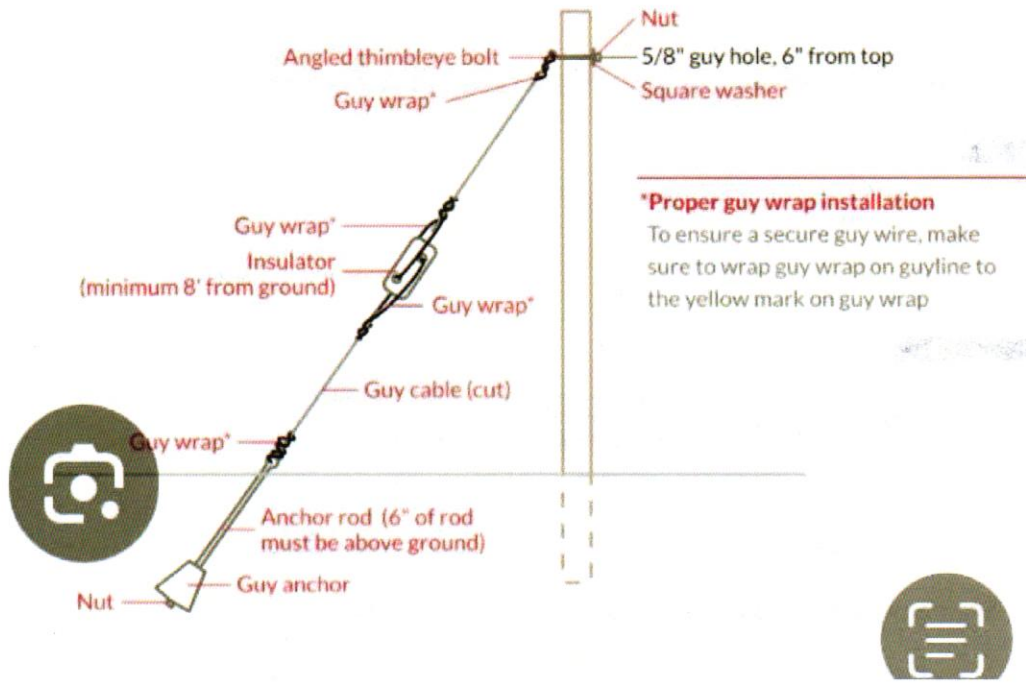


The Astound plans also call for 9 UGLY & HAZARDOUS guy wires above ground to structurally support the increased load of their heavy fiber optic bundles. There are no guy wire elevation views on the Astound plans but here is a sample of a guy wire from the internet:

City of Carmel-By-The-Sea

FEB 06 2024

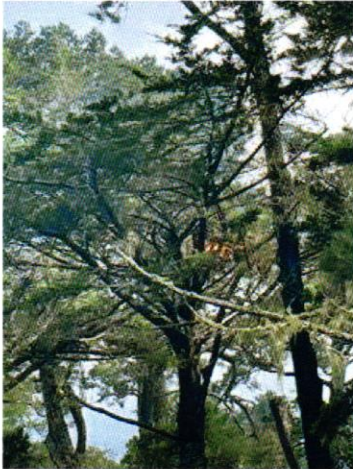
Office of the City Clerk



The Astound project proposes fiber optic bundles running through tree crowns. The CPUC admits that they are not able to keep up with monitoring telephone pole and utility code violations. PG&E is also overwhelmed in being able to properly maintain our overhead utilities.

I have included some recent 2/5 storm incidents in Carmel-by-the-Sea depicting exposed overhead electrical wires and trees as evidence of our ongoing fire danger.

Mountain View & Guadalupe, around 12:30 on 2/5 there was a fire in the lines; fire was put out quickly. 3 residences were evacuated. Photo:



On 2/5 communication lines down in area of 2nd & Pescadero Canyon. A big telephone pole break from a tree and a series of lines yanked down. Photos:



On 2/5 , the lines yanked down from above photos were also connected to CERT volunteers Deanna Dickman & Diana's block on Palou & N. Casanova which caused a jerk on their lines and broke a rotten cross beam on the pole jerking all of the wires. They have sagging wires and no electricity on this block. Photos:





We must require applicants who propose HEAVY fiber optic bundle wires to be underground due to aesthetics and safety. Guy wires are also a pedestrian tripping hazard and vehicular hazard in our green spaces used for pedestrian walking and vehicle parking access.

It would be most helpful if the City Attorney provides the following answers in writing for the public and City Council:

The Astound staff report says "The company has a state franchise to use the public right-of-way for their new fiber optic facilities, **but it is subject to the City's authority** to reasonably determine whether the proposed installations will incommode the public use of the streets. This can include a consideration of aesthetics."

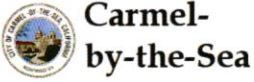
We need further clarification on our city's rights. Can the City Attorney clarify in writing for the public and the council the following?:

1. Can he provide an explanation as to why this project does not have a visual impact?
2. Can he explain why this project will not be a fire safety hazard?
3. Can he explain why this project will not incommode the public?
4. Can he explain whether the applicant has a right to our POW if they haven't proven they have a gap in service or coverage?
5. Can he explain why we can't require this project's fiber optic bundle wires underground?

Thank you for studying this proposal further. Let's remember that Carmel's aesthetics and safety must not be overlooked in favor of for profit utility company proposals.

Thank you for your time.

Concerned Citizen,
Tasha Witt



Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>

3rd telephone pole & cables down: on Astound telephone pole proposal route

'Tasha Witt' via cityclerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 7:57 PM

Reply-To: Tasha Witt

To: Brian Pierick <bpierik@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Chip Rerig <crerig@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Dave Potter <dpotter@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Bobby Richards <brichards@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Jeff Baron <jbaron@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Karen Ferlito <kferlito@ci.carmel.ca.us>, adramov@ci.carmel.ca.us, City Clerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

City Attorney Brian Pierick, City Administrator Chip Rerig, Mayor Dave Potter and City Council Members Baron, Ferlito and Dramov,

I tried to send a 3rd photo example of a telephone pole and overhead wires yanked down in our recent 2/5/24 storm. I'm not sure if it went through to you.

This 2/5/24 photo from Carpenter & 4th depicts fire and police on scene for a gas break in the area. It also depicts overhead cables and a telephone pole yanked down apparently by a fallen tree.

This incident is along the same route which Astound proposes their HEAVY overhead fiber optic bundles overhead on our overhead telephone poles.

This is a third photo example I've sent you of telephone poles and cables being yanked down by tree falls. This is further evidence that all overhead utilities must be required underground for our community's safety.

We already have the policy that all new home builds are required to underground their utilities and the cost for trenching goes to the homeowner. Why wouldn't we also require for-profit utility companies to also underground their utilities???

Tasha Witt

2 attachments



image13.jpeg
206K

City of Carmel-By-The-Sea

FEB 09 2024

Office of the City Clerk

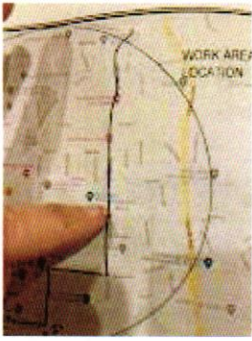


image14.jpeg
84K