

**Matt Lechliter**  
**1201 Hibiscus Street**  
**Oxnard CA 93036**  
**(805) 890-2394**  
***grandnationalradio@gmail.com***

September 26, 2023

Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
All Parties Concerned

RE: Consent Agenda item 76, Existing Wireless Communications Facilities Exemption – Thousand Oaks Area Plan TO-22.3 Amendment Proposal

I would like to voice our support for this proposed amendment. It is a sensible move that will allow critical communications systems to continue their vital work. Rasnow Peak is host to an array of these critical communications systems including those operated by the County of Ventura serving the public need and public safety of our community. Other site users include Amateur Radio, a Communications Service which is entirely Not-for-Profit. The Rasnow Family has long generously supported Amateur Radio within Ventura County by graciously donating tower space. This Service provides an array of community communications benefits, education in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and serves as an extremely versatile resource for Emergency Communications needs. Comprised of all ages and manner of people coming together as volunteers and neighbors, we are concerned with leaving a positive mark on our community.

Moreover, sites like Rasnow Peak form multiple inter-site networks which carry vital communications independent of fragile infrastructure like the public internet. During times of disaster, they shall remain critical robust resources when other services have failed. These communications systems rely upon line-of-sight to provide coverage to their users. Altering the existing facilities by significant reductions in height would severely hinder or negate their ability to provide these services. These towers are engineered to accommodate multiple users in an efficient manner. Height above ground is a key factor in performance and can affect the electromagnetic pattern of the antenna significantly.

Likewise, spacing between antennas on a tower structure is neither coincidental nor haphazard. Minimum spacing must be observed to prevent pattern distortion and other mutual or self interference. This includes the vertical spacing afforded by tall towers. Consider that many antennas used are themselves 18 to 22 feet long, and some dishes can be 10ft or greater in diameter. Spatially and structurally, this requires the requisite engineering of scale. Towers must be engineered to support themselves, their additional static and wind-related loads of these antennas, places to dress cable, and more. The result being height and structural bulk.

The visual impact of fewer taller towers could be argued as less obtrusive than many shorter, wider towers as well. And continued utilization of the existing facilities, rather than requiring a destructive revision of their construction, represents lesser environmental impact. And I know we all seek to be good stewards of our environment.

Best,  
Matt Lechliter  
Communications Field Engineer & Consultant