



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 21, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to SB 649 (Hueso): Wireless telecommunications facilities

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to request your veto on Senate Bill 649. Long Beach first opposed this legislation in April 2017, after meeting with telecommunication officials in an attempt to work with the industry on this issue. As adopted by the Legislature, SB 649 would nearly eliminate local government's ability to manage and regulate the way in which small cell and cable equipment infrastructure is deployed in neighborhoods and business communities in Long Beach, and for this reason, the City is strongly opposed to this bill.

The City of Long Beach supports modern technology, well-designed urban spaces, and a beautiful skyline. Zoning updates related to "small cells" were adopted in our City earlier this year. These changes provide appropriate aesthetic and location standards for City residents and stakeholders, as well as increase clarity of regulations and efficiency of processing for the wireless industry. These updates can, and are, occurring without SB 649. Notably, if SB 649 becomes law, the changes adopted by the Long Beach City Council to enable a responsible deployment of "small cell" infrastructure in Long Beach would become mute.

As a part of the City's responsibility to our communities, Long Beach also manages space in the public right-of-way, including that which is used by the telecommunication and cable industries for the siting of privately-owned equipment. The most recent package of small cell permits approved in Long Beach successfully considered local aesthetic concerns, as well as market rates for infrastructure leasing. These permits were approved after a one-time application fee of \$5,000 and at a cost of \$1,500 annual fee per pole in downtown Long Beach. The term of the agreement between the City and the telecommunications provider is 10-years. SB 649 proposes to place a cap

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on these fees of \$250 per year – representing a significant discount to the private sector, at the expense of our community.

Additionally, as amendments have been made to SB 649, the legislation progressively expanded to private property “macro” wireless sites, in addition to right-of-way small cells. The result is a near-complete deregulation of wireless telecom development and a loss of most local control over aesthetics. Given that the aesthetics of wireless telecom sites is the only main element left upon which local agencies may exercise any meaningful regulation, the adoption of SB 649 would essentially remove all oversight of wireless telecommunication development at the local level, leading to a one-size-fits-all, hands-off Statewide regulatory approach, which will likely result in an uncontrolled burst of wireless telecommunication buildouts with no regard to local communities.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach continues to strongly oppose SB 649 (Hueso), and requests your veto on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Garcia', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Ben Hueso, State Senate, 40th District
The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District