

## **Marin IJ Readers' Forum for June 6, 2022**

### Stop wireless facilities in Novato's residential zones

In February, AT&T submitted four applications to install so-called “small” wireless telecommunications facilities on light poles in Novato, far too close to Novato High School, residences and businesses. The applications did not conform to Novato's general plan or its wireless ordinances. The city deemed the applications incomplete (“Novato augments wireless project transparency,” May 13).

The public is being deceived about wireless broadband. Federal law only provides preemption from local law for wireless phone call service. Cities do not need to approve wireless telecommunications facilities for broadband. The best broadband is via fiber-optic or coaxial cable. Wired broadband is faster, more secure, fire-safe, more energy-efficient and not hazardous.

Questions remain about biological harms from radio frequency microwave radiation exposure to cellular antennas. The Environmental Health Trust successfully sued the Federal Communications Commission in 2021 and the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the FCC must review all the evidence and its radio frequency exposure guidelines. Any city can adopt a requirement that no wireless applications be deemed complete until the FCC completes this task.

Novato Councilmember Pat Eklund's motion for greater transparency of wireless applications was passed. Her motion to request a legal opinion on implementing stricter wireless application requirements also passed.

Novato officials are planning to update its wireless ordinance in the next several months. Please call or write to the Novato City Council. Ask it to adopt a protective wireless ordinance allowing wireless telecommunications facilities only in commercial, industrial and mixed-use zones. Go to [WireNovato.org](http://WireNovato.org) for more information.

— Steve Glanz, Novato