

From: [Sebastiaan de With](#)
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: Objection to proposed cell tower at 186 Summit Drive
Date: Friday, June 13, 2025 12:00:29 AM

******CAUTION:** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Dear Members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors,

We are writing as a local family residing in the Summit area to strongly oppose the construction of a 140-foot “faux tree” cell tower at 186 Summit Drive. We urge you to reject this proposal in defense of our community’s health, safety, environment, and rural character. I’ve outlined my reasons for writing you and I hope you consider this as you review the plans that were proposed!

Point one: Our Neighborhood Already Has Adequate Coverage

Unlike other more underserved regions of the county, this area already has reliable cell service. The justification for placing such a massive industrial structure here is weak at best, especially when it only serves a narrow radius and benefits AT&T users exclusively. Building infrastructure of this scale for such limited utility is an irresponsible use of land and resources. Current satellite options are robust and investing in wired infrastructure is better given the geography.

Environmental Harm: A Hidden Cost

This tower poses a significant environmental threat. These ‘fake trees’ are entirely plastic: we’ve learned that more than 8,000 pounds of plastic will be used on this structure. As shown in photos from beneath existing monopine towers, these plastic coverings shed debris over time, contaminating the soil and local watershed. These are not hypothetical concerns—we’re seeing firsthand how these materials degrade and pollute. This type of slow, insidious environmental damage directly undermines Santa Cruz County’s commitments to sustainability and ecological preservation, especially next to Fall Creek unit which flows into many SC county waters.

Quality of Life and Property Value at Risk

The proposed tower threatens our property values, but even more critically, it threatens the integrity of what we love most about our home: the peace, beauty, and privacy of a rural lifestyle. A 140-foot industrial structure, camouflaged or not, is a glaring visual intrusion. It changes the character of our community irreversibly.

Our children play outside daily. We garden. We hike. We cherish the clean air and quiet that drew us here in the first place. Approving this tower sends a message that rural communities like ours are disposable—that the priorities of telecom giants outweigh the rights and voices of families who live, work, and raise children in this area.

We Support Modern Infrastructure—But Not at Any Cost

We are not anti-technology. We support progress. But progress must be thoughtful and equitable. There are smarter, more targeted ways to improve cellular coverage without compromising public trust and local ecosystems. This is not the right location, and this is not the right project.

Please listen to your constituents. Our community has made it overwhelmingly clear that we do not want or need this tower.

Sincerely,
The de With/Zwigard Family
Kate Zwigard
Sebastiaan de With
Margo de With
[REDACTED]
Santa Cruz ca 95060