



CITY OF  
*Palos Verdes Estates*

OFFICE OF  
THE MAYOR

September 22, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 649 (Hueso). Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (as enrolled)  
Request for Veto**

Dear Governor Brown:

The City of Palos Verdes Estates respectfully requests your veto of SB 649 (Hueso). The bill would eliminate public input, eliminate reasonable local environmental and design review, mandate the forced leasing of publicly owned infrastructure and eliminate the ability of local governments to negotiate fair leases for the installation of "small cell" wireless equipment on public property.

This bill provides unwarranted and unnecessary authority to telecommunication carriers without providing for appropriate City and public input. It removes local authority over public properties, allows for structures to be indiscriminately constructed at the expense of property values and privacy, reverses the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision of *Sprint v. PVE* by eliminating local discretion over aesthetics and removes local CEQA control.

The City of Palos Verdes Estates is a small residential community. We are a planned community with no street lights or signals, featuring narrow, winding streets and hillside homes. Over a quarter of the City has been designated as natural parkland. The City retains its character through strict zoning and architectural controls. Telecommunications equipment is sited through a thoughtful and reasonable process that balances the interests and needs of residents and wireless carriers.

Our elected officials play a critical role in balancing the aesthetic values of our community with the benefits of state-of-the-art wireless technology. Over the past several months, Palos Verdes Estates has spent significant time considering new wireless telecommunication applications in public hearings and workshops and our Planning Commission has recently approved over a dozen new facilities. This balanced process has resulted in the implementation of new telecommunication facilities without compromising our aesthetics values or our property values. Local control is working as it should.

In Palos Verdes Estates, SB 649 would have significant consequences. We are concerned about indiscriminate placement of telecommunications equipment in view corridors, noise impacts from cooling fans placed too close to homes and facilities that are inconsistent with the aesthetic values of our community. We are very concerned that City properties, including parks and recreation facilities within neighborhoods, will be concentration points for new facilities. SB 649 will also significantly burden our single City Planner, but would not provide reasonable funding for the work that would be required.

SB 649 would force the City of Palos Verdes Estates to provide public property to allow for-profit corporations to install their equipment to sell their private services. By eliminating fair market rate leases for the use of public property, this bill also gives corporations discounted access to public property with no requirement to pass the cost-savings on to their customers. SB 649 creates billions of dollars of value for wireless industry shareholders with no benefit to the public. Rents from the use of public property help pay for essential municipal services. The bill would set a dangerous precedent for other private industries seeking similar discounted use of our local infrastructure.

The City of Palos Verdes Estates respectfully requests your veto of SB 649.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James D. Vandever', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

James D. Vandever

Mayor

City of Palos Verdes Estates

cc: Palos Verdes Estates City Council  
Anton Dahlerbruch, Palos Verdes Estates City Manager  
Senator Ben Allen, 26<sup>th</sup> District  
Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, 66<sup>th</sup> District  
Tom Dyer, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Brown  
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities, [jkiernan@cacities.org](mailto:jkiernan@cacities.org)  
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, [mdesmond@cacities.org](mailto:mdesmond@cacities.org)