

From: [REDACTED]
To: [-- City Council](#)
Cc: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Definitive Statement on Last Mile Delivery of Broadband Service - Fiber or Wired
Date: Monday, December 5, 2022 7:26:23 PM

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Greetings Council members,

As wireless broadband delivery technology, and 5G in particular, remains a contentious issue I would ask for our city to openly state their strategy for last mile broadband delivery.

The upcoming FY budget reviewed in May showed that the top priority for the city attorney's office was rewriting Petaluma's wireless ordinance, which is protective of residential areas when it comes to deploying cell towers. Many wonder why the wireless ordinance needs to be rewritten.

New cell towers are being approved via conditional use permit that is processed by the Planning Dept ministerially. There are 2 new cell towers that are being constructed that were able to bypass the most accessible and visible public forums. Maybe this has always been the process, but we want more public input and visibility on deploying wireless technology that ultimately permeates the air and can't be "opted out" of once installed.

Alongside these pieces of information that seem to indicate the city wants to pursue a wireless or 5G broadband delivery strategy in my mind, we also have the \$18mil AMI grant Public Works has received. Public Works initially planned to deploy 5G transmitters on water meters throughout the city. I am hoping we are able to push those funds towards deploying more fiberoptic infrastructure rather than wireless.

Wireless delivery of last mile broadband service and the spectre of 5G towers is a contentious issue for a reason. The impacts for humans and, maybe more importantly, for the flora, fauna and fungi in our ecosystem are definitively underexplored. Given the massive ecological impacts this technology could have, I don't see how we can claim to be an environmentally friendly city and reconcile that with a blind commitment to 5G. We need council and staff to openly state the strategy or direction of last mile broadband deployment for public feedback and input. Further, I am encouraging to commit to fiberoptic, not proliferating wireless broadband/5G technology.

Sincerely,

Darren Racusen