

Genoa Volunteer Fire Department  
2298 Main Street  
Genoa, NV 89411

Jacques Etchegoyhen, President, Director District 4  
East Fork Fire Protection District  
1694 County Rd,  
Minden, NV 89423

13 August, 2023

Dear Jacques,

On behalf of the Genoa Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) we are writing to express our opposition to the possible placement of a Verizon Wireless 65 foot cell tower adjacent to the East Fork Fire District structures. This property is in the heart of Genoa's historic district and surrounded by residential family homes.

The International Association of Fire Fighters' (IAFF) published a paper<sup>1</sup> on the health effects of cell tower radiation on the central nervous system and the immune systems. The IAFF goes on to oppose the placement of commercial cell tower wireless infrastructure near fire department facilities. It is their position that the safety profile of such structures, with their constant emission of low intensity radio frequency (RF) and microwave (MW) radiation, remains unknown. Until definitive studies conclude that there are no health hazards associated with such exposure, they recommend against cell tower placement at fire facilities.

The negative health consequences of 5G are even less well understood. Per the Scientific American opinion of October 17, 2019, "We have no reason to believe 5G is safe."<sup>2</sup> The American Academy of Pediatrics has called on the federal government to protect children from EMF (electromagnetic field) exposure<sup>3</sup>. They, too, cite numerous deleterious health consequences. Safe levels of RF/MW exposure remain unknown and numerous national and international scientific organizations have called for better demonstration of safety before wholesale adoption of the technology.

The proposed cell tower requires a zoning variance due to its height, which would make it the tallest structure in the downtown sector. While efforts have been made to make the tower visually pleasing, the structure runs counter to the carefully preserved nature of the historic buildings and authenticity of Genoa. It is also likely that neighbors nearby will have to disclose their proximity to a 5G tower during real estate transactions, with obvious negative consequences for current property owners.

In conclusion, the proposed cell tower on East Forks Fire Department property is opposed. There are better solutions for its location in the proximity of Genoa that reduce health risks and concerns of the citizens of Genoa.

Respectfully,

Martin Manning on the behalf of the GVFD Volunteers

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iaff.org/cell-tower-radiation/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/we-have-no-reason-to-believe-5g-is-safe/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/Pages/Electromagnetic-Fields-A-Hazard-to-Your-Health.aspx>