

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MORONGO VALLEY
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT OPPOSING THE PROPOSED MORONGO
CANYON AT HIGHWAY 62 MULTI-TENANT 196' WIRELESS BROADBAND
COMMUNICATIONS TOWER PROJECT SITE, NORTH OF HIGHWAY 62 IN THE
RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD OF PARADISE HEIGHTS AND THE SAND TO
SNOW SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA**

WHEREAS, the Morongo Valley Community Services District (the “District”) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of its Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) and its standing committees have been elected to represent and serve the local citizens of Morongo Valley by attending, participating, and advocating on behalf of the residents and local business on matters that may impose negative community impacts; and

WHEREAS, Morongo Valley is home to the Sand to Snow National Monument and gateway to the Morongo Basin, a world-renown tourist destination with a recognized habitat for threatened and endangered flora, fauna and wildlife, in addition to being a place for relaxation and escape; and

WHEREAS, the economy of the area relies on the natural beauty, unique natural sites and desert landscape; and

WHEREAS, the “District” recognizes that the continued success of the local economy is greatly dependent on the preservation the area's natural resources and tourism appeal; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office is considering a need for a proposed Land Use Plan Amendment, a change from Visual Resource Management Class II Area to Class III Area to accommodate the 2.2-acre developer proposed project site and Right of Way (ROW) access road; and

WHEREAS, the BLM has selected a site for a new developer owned Multi-Tenant 196’ Wireless Broadband Communications lattice tower with a 28' X 28' concrete base and auxiliary structures located in the residential neighborhood of Paradise Heights, north of the Highway 62; and

WHEREAS, the BLM did not notify the affected local government, the “District” regarding the proposed project that will impact nearly every parcel within Morongo Valley while also downgrading the Visual Resource Inventory; and

WHEREAS, the proposed site is located within the Sand to Snow Special Recreation Management Area and visible at the entry to Morongo Valley Basin and will be one of the first desert landmarks encountered by commuters, tourists, vacationers and others who travel to or through the Morongo Basin; and

WHEREAS, the impact of such a structure on the perceptions of visitors and tourists could significantly and detrimentally affect their desire to visit the Sand to Snow Monument and the surrounding area, such that Morongo Valley and local businesses could experience economic losses in the form of eco-tourism, lodging reservations, and retail sales; and

WHEREAS, the local citizens of Morongo Valley have not had the opportunity to propose and identify other sites which could serve as a location for the proposed Multi-Tenant Wireless Broadband Communications Tower, or propose and discuss alternative modern communication equipment installations which would not pose a threat to residential property values, established view corridors, quality of life, wildlife habitat or the local economy and do not require a downgrade of Visual Resource Inventories; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has not presented a prepared draft Environmental Impact Report which sufficiently and accurately analyzes the adverse economic and wildlife impact the proposed Tower would have on the wildlife corridor that houses threatened and endangered flora and fauna and various wildlife including but not limited to Desert Big Horn Sheep; and

WHEREAS, the BLM rejected the San Bernardino County 3rd District Board of Supervisor and Friends of Big Morongo Canyon's requests to extend the comment period; and

WHEREAS, the "District" has not been given the opportunity to provide a separate comment on the draft EIR, identifying how the proposed Communication Tower would create significant and manifest economic losses to residents, businesses, and the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. The Board calls upon the BLM, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office to recognize that the Multi-Tenant 196' Wireless Broadband Communications lattice tower with a 28' X 28' concrete base at the proposed 2.2-acre site location would have a detrimental effect on the economy and residents and natural wildlife habitat of Morongo Valley and the Morongo-Basin Visual Corridor.

Section 3. The Board hereby strongly opposes the development of the Multi-Tenant 196' Wireless Broadband Communications lattice tower at the proposed Morongo Valley location.

Section 4. The Board further recommends that the BLM, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office immediately halt the NEPA review of the proposed site in the Morongo Valley Sand to Snow Special Recreation Management Area and consider alternative existing utility tower locations where the developer can co-locate modern wireless communication technology on existing infrastructure.

Section 5. The Board has received Community input, expressing strong opposition to this project, and requesting an additional scoping and comment period, so the District can receive information, may thoughtfully consider, and communicate with all constituents.

Section 6. The Board recommends the BLM does not amend the 2.2 acres of BLM lands from Visual Resource Management Class II to Class III within the CDCA plan

Section 7. The Board recommends the BLM denies the Grant of Right of Way (ROW) as requested by applicant.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Morongo Valley Community Services District this ___ day of April 2022, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:

President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Directors