



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

May 11, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
California State Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose SB 649 (Hueso) – Wireless telecommunications facilities

Dear Senator Lara:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in opposition to SB 649. This legislative position represents a shift in the City's original "oppose unless amended" position. Long Beach has met periodically with Verizon in search of a solution that would enable the telecommunication industry to obtain permits for small cells more expeditiously, and Long Beach to maintain the unique identify of our City. Unfortunately, the proponents of SB 649 have not been able to meet the City's concerns with regards to local discretionary control related to aesthetics, permitting processes, use of city-owned facilities, and infrastructure in the public right-of-way.

Long Beach takes pride in supporting a robust economy inclusive of modern technology, well-designed urban spaces, and a beautiful skyline. While the City values services provided by the wireless telecommunication industry, the City must also have the authority to fulfill our role as a local government. As a part of this responsibility, Long Beach manages space in the public right-of-way. The most recent small cell permit approved, provides for a \$1,500 annual fee per pole in downtown Long Beach, plus a one-time application fee of \$5,000. The term of the agreement is 10 years.

The City understands the need to modernize the telecommunication permitting process given changes in technology. Zoning updates related to "small cells" are underway in Long Beach, and will provide appropriate aesthetic and location standards for City residents and stakeholders, and increase clarity of regulations and efficiency of processing for the wireless industry. These updates can, and are, occurring without SB 649.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach respectfully opposes SB 649 (Hueso).

Sincerely,

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Ben Hueso, State Senate, 40th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District
Senate Appropriations Committee Members