Mountain News Your local newspaper 55° Advanced Search Overcast (909) 336-3555 • 28200 Hwy 189, Bldg O-1, Ste #200 • P.O. Box 2410 • Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352 Sports Mountain Living Business Opinion Calendar Multimedia Announcements Pay My Account Subscribe Home News Cars Homes



The Mountain News eEdition

The complete Newspaper. Every story. Every photo. Every page - Online!

Click here to launch our Free Online Demo!

www.Mountain-News.com/eedition

Home News

Proposed Cell Tower Stirs Protests

Comments (3) Story

Share 💿 Print 😐 Font Size: -

7 Tweet { 0

Posted: Thursday, April 30, 2015 12:00 am

By Glenn Barr, Reporter | 🛡 3 comments

Residents living off North Bay Road in Lake Arrowhead are protesting plans by the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) to construct a 74-foot-high cell tower on federal land homeowners say would be a blight on the beauty of the forest.

A letter Marc Stamer, the mountaintop district ranger, sent to some 950 residents within a half mile of the site, as well as interested agencies and organizations, was vague and several nearby residents did not receive it, according to an e-mail one protesting homeowner, Joe Cady, sent to project representative Heidi Lake Hoggan on April 13.

According to a legal notice the Forest Service published in the March 12, 2015, issue of the Mountain News, was seeking comments on a proposal to authorize construction and operation of a multi-carrier cellular communication site on the north side of the lake.

Neither the legal notice nor Stamer's letter mentions the projected tower's 74-foot height, but both say the .06-acre site would include the tower, two small equipment shelters, a propane generator and a propane tank.

Construction would take approximately 40 to 60 days, subject to weather delays, and would occur at an unspecified time either this year or next. A 30-year lease would be granted to Vista Towers, LLC, to operate the site.

Vista Towers, founded in 2005, is a company that coordinates the placement of cell-phone towers to "help bring a long-term revenue stream to your property through a wireless communications site," according to the firm's website.

In a document called the North Lake Arrowhead Communication Site Project Scoping Packet, SBNF explains the need for the tower.

"Current cell phone coverage in the Lake Arrowhead area is unreliable and has 'dead zones' in the northwest corner of the Lake Arrowhead area," the scoping packet says. "Wireless service is haphazard and inconvenient for area residents and visitors. In the event of an emergency, E911 services may not be available "

But Joseph Cady, a second homeowner who strongly protests the project, disputes that assertion. "I live a quarter of a mile from this area and have three bars on my cell phone," he said. "In fact, I get better reception than at my home in San Diego."

In an interview on Tuesday, Cady raised numerous concerns about the proposed tower that would be constructed near the end of Kodiak Drive, north of North Bay Road and west of Highway 173.

"Communications have just been horrible," he said, referring to the way SBNF notified area residents of the proposal. "I talked to seven neighbors on Caribou and Kodiak Drives," he said. "None of them ever recall seeing or receiving a letter." Cady also contends SBNF should have posted a notice about the impending project at the head of a heavily used hiking trail near the site.

The envelope in which he received his notice, Cady said, "was nondistinctive. There was nothing on it about it being a notice." Inside, he said, he found "a cryptic URL" that, when followed, led to additional information, including the tower's height and location.



GO

Classifieds

Welcome to the site! Login or Signup below.

Login | Signup

"Never would I have thought in my wildest dreams they were talking about putting it adjacent to homes and by a hiking trail," he said.

As for the form of the notification, "they might be technically in compliance with the law but they don't want people to know about it. There's no motivation to make sure people know about it because all they're going to get is objections."

Cady predicted homes near the site "will be devalued by tens of thousands of dollars. The whole thing is very sneaky and constructed in a way not to raise too many alarm bells," he said.

In an e-mail sent Monday, Cady asks the involvement and support of both the Sierra Club and the Save Our Forest Association (SOFA). Asked about the request, Sierra Club board member Steven Farrell told this newspaper his organization had not discussed the project and was not aware of its specifics.

"Unfortunately, without more understanding of the details of this project, I must say we are not in a position to render opinion or judgment," Farrell said, adding that the club will contact Cady for a discussion.

Dr. Hugh Bialecki, president of SOFA, had not responded by press time to a call for comment.

In response to e-mails raising objections to the project, SBNF spokesperson Heidi Hoggan said notices had been sent to interested parties on March 9 using addresses "that were on file with San Bernardino County." Some have been returned as having incorrect addresses, she wrote.

For project information, go to data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/project list.php?forest=110512 and scroll down to the North Lake Arrowhead Communication Site Project.

Tweet 0	
Discuss	Share 💿 Print 🖪

Posted in News on Thursday, April 30, 2015 12:00 am.

More From This Site

- **Mental State Questioned in Assault Case**
- An Afternoon of Beautiful Music
- **Brush Fires Knocked Down**
- Throwing a Decked Out Deck Party
- Music, Music, Music

From Around The Web

- 28 Stunning NFL Wives (Time To Break)
- What Happened to the Cast of 'Hogan's Heroes'? (Answers.com)
- 29 Clever License Plates That Slipped Past The **DMV** (Odometer.com)
- These Photos Could Not Have Been taken At A Better Time (ViewMixed)
- Michael J. Fox's 20-Year-Old Twins Are So Pretty (Refinery29)

Recommended by Outbrain

Screen Name o	or Email		
Password			
Fassword			Forg
Login			





AKE ARROWHEAD

Resort and Spa





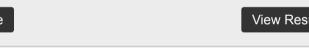




Forrest fan posted at 9:50 pm on Fri, May 1, 2015. Demos I'm definitely concerned. This proposed cell tower is directly next to a residential area and at the beginning of a popular hiking trail. Not only would the tower be extremely Posts: 1 unsightly, there are several buildings that will also be built. One of the buildings is 38 Free Admission feet wide. Pads for generators and propane tank storage are also included. The tower is 74 feet tall which will definitely stand out and detract from this beautiful area. The Public Welcome communication appears like it is just a tower. Unless residents access links and go through the documents that's the only way to see the details. Notification has been poor. This is not appropriate for this area of our Forrest land and will likely block and limit usage to this open Forrest area. We live in the mountains to enjoy nature not to **Online Poll** have structures like this erected on Forrest land. Eleven sheriff's deputies, including two from A Log In to report. the Twin Peaks station, have been placed on paid leave while the department investigates their role in the violent arrest of an identity-North LA resident posted at 6:21 pm on Thu, Apr 30, 2015. theft suspect on April 9. What's your view? The arrest may have gotten physical, but the suspect We do need reliable 911 communications. But the place for cell towers is in commercial did flee and he stole a horse, so I'm not too concerned areas -- not in our National Forest, not on top of popular hiking trails, and not adjacent Posts: 1 about what the deputies did. to residential neighborhoods. Find another place! This is another example of law enforcement officers A Log In to report. abusing their authority; all of them who struck the suspect should be disciplined. Old_Duffer posted at 9:28 am on Thu, Apr 30, 2015. I prefer to wait until the department finishes its investigation before making up my mind. This isn't pristine undeveloped acreage-it is Lake Arrowhead-not Yosemite Valley. It will not devalue homes by thousands of dollars. We DO need better coverage in this area. Posts: 2 View Results Vote There are some issues with development and water in our hometown but this just isn't one of the wilderness issues that we need to fight about. The Windmills blighting miles of view; yes that would have been a very serious issue but one cell tower providing needed service; that is NOT an issue. Build it.

🛕 Log In to report. | 🥜 Link

Print comments







	Calendar						
0		Ν	<i>l</i> lay 201	5		0	
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

31		
today's		
events	browse	submit

This Month's Events

MOUNTAIN CINEMA CLUB

Mountain Cinema Club

MOUNTAIN CINEMA CLUB

Toastmasters

UCLA Zen Deck Wine Tasting

Running Springs Farmers Market

Sunday Jam

📸 Sun, May 24, 2:00 pm PDT Naries

Rose Memorial Ceremony

MOUNTAIN CINEMA CLUB

Mountain Cinema Club

More Calendar »

Submit Your News!



We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news

Services Sections Search Contact us - Contact Us - Home mountain-news.com - News - Place An Ad Search - Sports - Home Delivery Mountain News - Subscription Services - Mountain Living Search in: **Phone number:** (909) 336-3555 - Submission Forms - Business E-mail: jbrown@mountain-🔽 All A&E - Opinion - Site Index news.com News Business - Add Search Toolbar - Obituaries Sports Opinion **Address:** P.O. Box 2410 - Terms of Service - Announcements Photo Galleries Mountain Living - E-edition Lake Arrowhead, California 92352 Video - Photo Gallery - Local Videos - Online Features - Weather

© Copyright 2015, Mountain News, Lake Arrowhead, California. Powered by BLOX Content Management System from TownNews.com. [Terms of Use | Privacy Policy]