



December 15, 2015

Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 West Congress Street
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Via Email as Attachment

RE: Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting, December 15, 2015, Agenda Item #22, Appeal of Hearing Officer's Decision, P-21-15-008, Northwest Fire District, North Camino de Oeste

Honorable Chair and Members of the Board:

Scenic Arizona urges you to grant the appeal in the above referenced wireless communication tower case and require that different design solution be found other than the large water tower that is proposed. Camino de Oeste is a designated scenic route and the water tower design is not consistent with the purposes or objectives of the scenic route system.

First, it should be noted that the visual mass of the proposed tower would be the same as that for a standard medium-sized billboard (300 square feet) and the tower height of 50 feet would greatly exceed that for such billboards (26-33 feet). Mass and height of this scale is not consistent with that of the surrounding built environment and certainly not compatible with the surrounding natural environment.

Furthermore, the traveling public would be particularly affected. Based on recent Pima Association of Governments traffic counts, some 4,000 motor vehicle occupants pass the subject location each day, and there are an additional number of pedestrians and bicyclists. This traveling public deserves to rely on the scenic route designation as to the visual quality of the Camino de Oeste streetscape.

We also find it troubling that there were a number of misrepresentations by the applicant. A slide show presentation at a community meeting held by the applicant on November 4 showed a distorted water tower with the width clearly not being proportional to the height. In addition, the following slide of a palm tree tower design was disproportionately large and tall in comparison to the water tower in the previous slide and had an undue density of palm fronds compared to a normal installation. After these distortions were pointed out at the meeting, the applicant agreed to work on a more compatible design with local community members having such design expertise, but never followed through in good faith.

Lastly, the proposal includes the conveyance of respective easements by two adjacent residential property owners to the wireless carrier for unknown financial sums. Such remuneration would appear to create a conflicting interest as to any views that such owners may have in support of the proposal.

Scenic Arizona again urges you to protect the integrity of the Pima County scenic route system and the quality of the visual landscapes that the traveling public experiences by voting in favor of this appeal and by requiring a compatible wireless communication tower design.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Mayer".

Mark Mayer
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cc: Pima County Board of Supervisors Clerk