

## **Bereket, Immanuel**

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**From:** Maureen Block <moblock@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 2:14 PM  
**To:** Mosher, Ana Hilda  
**Cc:** Bereket, Immanuel; Sackett, Mary  
**Subject:** SUPPORT the DENIAL of the AT&T APPEAL

I am a San Rafael resident and I support the Staff Report Recommendation to DENY the AT&T appeal of the DZA decision on the St. Luke Presbyterian Church project.

Besides all of my other prior objections, I want to impress that components of this technology are flammable and we do not need any part of an infrastructure involving flammable parts to be built out in our residential neighborhoods. Fires are too risky and destructive in California.

We have fiber optics, and so we have faster alternatives that are better - and safe - for the community.

Sincerely,

Maureen Block  
105 Montecito Road  
San Rafael, CA 94901

## **Bereket, Immanuel**

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**From:** Ruth Weizman <rmweizman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 4:40 PM  
**To:** Bereket, Immanuel  
**Cc:** Mosher, Ana Hilda; Connolly, Damon; Reed, Michelle  
**Subject:** Continue to DENY AT&Ts Appeal of DZA Decision on St Luke Project

Dear Manny,

I am writing in support of the Staff Report recommendation to DENY AT &T's appeal of the DZA decision on the St. Luke Presbyterian Church project.

Thank you for supporting the residents of San Rafael by continuing to deny this appeal.

Best regards,

Ruth Weizman

## **Bereket, Immanuel**

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**From:** Ara Apkarian <apkarservices@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 6:10 PM  
**To:** Bereket, Immanuel  
**Subject:** Re: Phone Tower

I have been a church member 1984 and I live at a close neighborhood I think many of us will support having the tower, it will help our church to have more income, so that we can do more good to help the needy and the community .

Sincerely yours,

Ara Apkarian

212 San Marino Drive

San Rafael, CA. 94901

## Bereket, Immanuel

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**From:** Steve Glanz <sglanz@rcn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 11:20 PM  
**To:** Connolly, Damon; Bereket, Immanuel  
**Subject:** Letter Submission - St. Luke's Church Presbytery Design Review

Greetings Marin County Senior Planner Immanuel Bereket, Deputy Zoning Administrator, Planning Department, Damon Connelly and other Marin County Supervisors, AT&T, and Epic Wireless:

Please enter this into the public record for this matter, and send me an acknowledgment when it has been entered: Presbytery Design Review / Use Permit (P2770)

[https://marin.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view\\_id=3&event\\_id=1761](https://marin.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=3&event_id=1761)

ATT has made a change in its appeal. It is now proposing to build a cell tower disguised as a tree (treepole). This was done presumably for two reasons:

1. To satisfy the objection to aesthetics and view obstruction.
2. In anticipation of an appeal to the Board or Supervisors who have stated a preference for treepoles.

In answer to this, I offer the following.

1. We have argued convincingly that cell tower radiation is a biohazard and an environmental hazard. Camouflage prevents people from knowing when they are near a cell tower, increasing their biohazard risk.
2. There are numerous other reasons to reject the appeal, documented in hundreds of pages of public comment, and in the DZA appeals decision.
2. Treepole aesthetics are not what they are cracked up to be.

From this article: <https://99percentinvisible.org/article/botanical-imperative-why-cellular-network-towers-get-disguised-as-trees/>

"Camouflage is not always completely convincing, often for one or more of the following reasons:

- Cost: camouflage can add over \$100,000 to tower construction prices, leading some clients to skimp on expensive branches
- Weight: branches don't just add construction cost, they also add pounds, which have to be offset with a sturdier trunk
- Height: reception requires faux trees to be exceptionally tall, often making them stand out from adjacent greenery
- Seasonality: pines may remain evergreen, but fake deciduous trees can look out of place when the leaves fall off their living neighbors
- Ironically, trying too hard to fit in can result in a cell tower standing out even more, falling into a kind of botanical "uncanny valley."

And from this article: <https://www.vox.com/2015/4/19/8445213/cell-phone-towers-trees>

Where you can also get a visual on how bizarre these fake trees look.

- "Why these "trees" look so ridiculous. There are actually good reasons why these towers seldom actually look like real trees.

- One is height. Towers are built to hold antennas higher than surrounding structures to ensure good reception, so they have to be taller than what's nearby. This is why you often see surreally tall "pines" or "palms" towering over normal trees.
- Another is cost. These "trees" are normal cellphone towers, which are then sent to companies like Larson or Stealth Concealment for plastic, fiberglass, or acrylic "bark," "branches," and "needles" to be added. This process is customized and expensive: it can add \$100,000 or so to the baseline \$150,000 cost of a tower.
- As Ryan McCarthy of Larson told Bernard Mergen, "A pine tree that has 200 branches will be more appealing than one of the same height that has 100. However, the customer will not only incur the cost of 100 extra branches, but the extra wind load from the branches will also require that the pole be designed more stoutly.""

Sincerely,

Steve Glanz  
Marin County Resident

## Bereket, Immanuel

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**From:** Linda Hetzel <Linda@LindaHetzel.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 26, 2020 6:47 PM  
**To:** Mosher, Ana Hilda  
**Cc:** Bereket, Immanuel; MSacket@marincounty.org  
**Subject:** RE: AT&T/PRESBYTERY NINE-ANTENNA CELL TOWER PROJECT AT ST. LUKE CHURCH IN SAN RAFAEL

Dear Marin County Telecom Installation Permit Decision makers,

As a Marin County and San Anselmo resident, I am writing to you to let you know that I support the Staff Report Recommendation to Deny the AT&T appeal of the DZA decision on the St. Luke Presbyterian Church project.

Many Thanks,  
Linda Hetzel  
San Anselmo

## Bereket, Immanuel

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**From:** Ocean Michelle Nagle <wildheartlaughing@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 26, 2020 8:26 PM  
**To:** Mosher, Ana Hilda  
**Cc:** Bereket, Immanuel; Sackett, Mary  
**Subject:** URGING THE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION TO DENY THE AT&T/PRESBYTERY NINE-ANTENNA CELL TOWER PROJECT AT ST. LUKE CHURCH

Hello Planning Commision,

I am again urging the county planning commission to deny the AT&T/Presbytery nine antenna cell tower project.

I fully support the staff report recommendation to deny the AT&T appeal of the DZA decision on the St. Luke Presbyterian Church Project.

The church is on unincorporated County *residential* property surrounded by the City of San Rafael, which means it is too close to residences. It also exposes the folks that worship at that church to ongoing microwave radiation.

It is well known that people that are exposed to this type of radiation can experience detrimental health effects from the exposure.

Thank you for your time,  
Michelle Nagle  
San Rafael Resident

## Bereket, Immanuel

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**From:** Anahaar <anahaar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 26, 2020 9:47 PM  
**To:** Mosher, Ana Hilda  
**Cc:** Bereket, Immanuel; Supervisor Connolly  
**Subject:** Opposition to ATT&T Proposal for St. Luke Church

Dear Ana Mosher,

I know I am a bit late in sending this email of opposition. I did so in May for this proposal from ATT&T . I am again, voicing my strong opposition of the Cell tower Complex that will eventually add on 5G in a Residential neighborhood for the sake of Money not the citizens, the children, the view, the value of the Property of the Houses and the large add-on that will effect all of us in this area. If ATT&T gets approval for their proposal it will lead to more Telecommunication Companies thinking they can come into San Rafael city and Unincorporated Marin and most important in Residential areas, where we should be safe from harm and have choice if we want this.

Isn't it time to Stop Private Institutions eg.. Church's and Business's from taking money from Telecom companies for their profit and take care of Marin residents?

Sincerely

Ms. Anahaar

Sent from my iPad

## **Bereket, Immanuel**

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**From:** Harriet Spiegel <HSpiegel@csuchico.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 27, 2020 8:54 AM  
**To:** AMosher@marincountyorg; Bereket, Immanuel  
**Subject:** Input for Sept 28 ATT appeal to Planning Commission

To: Marin County Planning Commission

From: Harriet Spiegel  
57 Bayview Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94901

[hspiegel@csuchico.edu](mailto:hspiegel@csuchico.edu)

re: ATT appeal of denial of St Luke's cell tower  
September 26, 2020

As the hearing for ATT's appeal of the St Luke's cell tower has unfortunately been scheduled for Yom Kippur, I am not able to participate. Please accept the comments below as my input. Thank you.

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The ATT appeal lacks merit and required elements.

There is no full description of this new proposal. The proposed locations are vaguely indicated on photos by arrows. There are no story poles for either of the two new options. There is no presentation of what kind of monopole is anticipated....no height or other dimensions or details are presented. No pictures --- some monopoles are quite ugly! ATT's appeal is little more than a blank check, asking us to assume that whatever they do will be acceptable.

The County and our neighborhood must be able to know what is being proposed...How will it look? Will views be affected? Will it be considerably larger than trees around it? Will it fit in? Will it be safe? Surely this information should be part of ATT's application.

Additionally, there is a new concern. If this monopole is near the intersection of Pt San Pedro Road and Bayview Drive, as seems to be indicated, this is a dangerous intersection with frequent accidents. Just yesterday a vehicle knocked down the stop sign right across from the corner where a monopole has been proposed.

And again ATT has failed to provide crucial documentation showing that other sites for this cell tower have been seriously and fully considered. The Bayside Acres Action Committee, the Point San Pedro Road Coalition, and others, have shown in detail how ATT's reports on alternative sites are inadequate, misleading, and at times false.

Since this proposal is for a tower in a residential neighborhood, the least desirable of the six areas described by the County, it is crucial that more appropriate sites be considered first. Residential sites are acceptable only when the need is urgent and no other sites are possible; we have absolutely no evidence that this church, in a quiet residential neighborhood, is the only possible site; indeed I am quite certain that it is not.

I urge the Planning Commission to deny ATT's appeal.  
Thank you.

## Bereket, Immanuel

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**From:** Elaine DiPalma <elainedi@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 27, 2020 9:42 AM  
**To:** Bereket, Immanuel  
**Subject:** Cell Tower Use Permit

Elaine DiPalma  
34 Heritage Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Mr. Immanuel Bereket, Senior Planner  
Marin County Community Development Department  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903

September 27, 2020

Re: Presbytery of the Redwoods Use Permit and Design Review Application, P2770.

Dear Mr. Bereket,

I am writing in support of the Presbytery of the Redwoods Use Permit and Design Review Application, P2770.

I am a resident of Marin County and East San Rafael. It is in the interest of public safety that the above referenced project be approved and implemented as proposed. East Marin County is in need of improved and *reliable* cell coverage. Our community was greatly impacted by the power outages in 2019 when cell coverage was interrupted and often unavailable. Planned and unforeseen power outages will certainly occur again, likely more frequently, and we have the opportunity to be pro-active now to ensure cell coverage is consistent in our area.

This project benefits our community in a number of ways to support public safety. It will expand the cellular footprint in the immediate neighborhood, increase network capacity, provide battery backup in times of power outages and reserve capacity for first responders.

I urge the Planning Commission to approve the application, P2770.

Sincerely,

Elaine DiPalma  
415-454-4851

## **Bereket, Immanuel**

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**From:** jess lerner <jesslerner8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 27, 2020 12:01 PM  
**To:** Bereket, Immanuel; Connolly, Damon; Rodoni, Dennis; Sears, Kathrin; Mosher, Ana Hilda; Rice, Katie; Arnold, Judy  
**Subject:** Yom Kippur is tomorrow, please reschedule hearing!

Dear County Supervisors, Manny, and Planning Commissioner Mosher:

I find it very unfortunate that you have scheduled this permit and design review hearing for tomorrow, which is Yom Kippur on the Jewish calendar.

I am Jewish and observe the holidays seriously, and that means being offline and attending services for all, starting this evening through tomorrow night (and the same for all the high holy days, like Rosh Hashanah.)

**I know many others observe as well**, and it is not right that they should not be able to be present or offer comments during this hearing, and are excluded from this process.

I am aware that public comments are critical, and often letters go unread and are not taken as seriously, so being able to send a letter does not suffice in place of being able to attend and make comments at a public hearing that should be democratic and include all residents and community members who wish to attend.

**Please note I oppose this application, and sincerely hope you will deny it for the benefit of the residents of the county and based on the feedback you have received, rather than approving for the agenda and corporate greed of the applicant.**

On the subject of awareness, social justice and inclusion- since moving to Marin, I have experienced a number of comments that range from ignorant to micro-aggressions, to hostile- such as, "no one really observes those holidays, do they?" or, "that's just a reason to take a day off for those people" to "there is no second day of rosh hashanah- my friends don't observe it, so you must have made that up!"

At this critical time of growing awareness and massive change to our underlying white supremacist structure as a society, you as leaders must step up to fight back against racism and anti-semitism, and that includes not silencing, making invisible, or ignoring important and major holidays like Yom Kippur.

For decades, many Jewish people have felt the need to assimilate to fit in and ignore or reject our own identity and practices. Please help change this by publicly respecting and supporting those practices, and reschedule this meeting for another time that is not Yom Kippur (or any other major holiday.)

I hope to hear from you on this and that you wish to support shifting consciousness towards a more inclusive and respectful society.

Thank you,  
Jess Lerner  
Fairfax

## **Bereket, Immanuel**

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**From:** erich@erichmiller.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 27, 2020 12:44 PM  
**To:** Bereket, Immanuel  
**Subject:** St. Luke Presbyterian Bell/Cell Tower

Hello Immanuel,

I'm writing to you in support of the Epic/AT&T cell tower proposal on the St. Luke Presbyterian Church on Bayview Drive.

Out of an abundance of community safety, in support of our first responders, and in an effort to see the county communication infrastructure improved I ask that this project be approved.

The last 18 months with planned power outages of unknown length, as well as the simple everyday experiences trying to communicate via cell phone have shown this part of the county is woefully underserved. Our police, sheriffs, fire departments and other regency services need a reliable stable system in place which this addition to the First Responder network will bring.

I read the criticisms in the last hearing.

It should be noted St. Luke has an open door policy with the neighbors. Their drive is almost the only one on Bayview Drive without a gate. Neighbors have freely enjoyed the property for dog walks, lunches and a place to reflect over the bay view. St. Luke supports a variety of community programs including that of the local elementary school. These missions and property up keep cost money. They, as anyone, should deserve compensation for use of the property by Epic/AT&T.

That a couple of neighbors are concerned that they will see a bit of a tower in their panoramic view of the bay seems a petty reason to force an entire area to remain underserved and more over be at risk in emergency periods. Please use Google Earth, realtor.com or drive by to see for yourself.

That aesthetics being imposed by one person over another regarding the peaceful use of their property seems a very conservative approach from Marin County.

That it was suggested a church use a religious icon, the steeple and cross, as a cell tower seems thoughtless and disrespectful.

Again I hope all those in power will support community safety and security by supporting this application.

Thank you,  
Erich Miller  
San Rafael, CA.

## **Bereket, Immanuel**

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**From:** George Livingstone <capt.livingstone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 10:53 AM  
**To:** Bereket, Immanuel  
**Subject:** Cell Tower at St Luke Church

Dear Mr. Bereket,

I am writing to you in support of the proposed AT&T cell tower to be built on the property of St. Luke Church. Although I am not presently a resident of San Rafael, I lived at 99 Brodea Way off Point San Pedro road for 4 years. I can say with certainty that cell coverage in the area is poor at best.

Given all the serious issues with power shutdowns due to high winds in the last two years, it would seem the idea of a (battery backed up) cell tower in this area makes a significant positive impact on Public Safety? I can not believe that a compromise regarding design isn't possible in this case? There is so much more at stake than even the legitimate concerns of property owners. The greater Public Safety has to be brought into the conversation, does it not?

Thank you for the consideration and effort you have put into this matter.

Capt George H Livingstone  
San Francisco Bar Pilot

## **Bereket, Immanuel**

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**From:** George Livingstone <capt.livingstone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 10:53 AM  
**To:** Bereket, Immanuel  
**Subject:** Cell Tower at St Luke Church

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Capt George H Livingstone  
San Francisco Bar Pilot