

## **WRAC-Recommended Motion and Background Information re SB 649**

See: <http://westsidecouncils.com/motion/cell-towers-aka-wireless-facilities-public-right-way-city-property/>.

### Cell towers aka wireless facilities in public right-of-way and on city property

Proposed by WRAC LUPC on June 21, 2017

Passage deadline: September 2017

- Passed by Pacific Palisades Community Council Westwood Community Council  
*[update: Brentwood Community Council and South Robertson Neighborhood Council have also passed the motion]*

### Motion

WRAC recommends opposing SB 649, which removes from cities the discretionary regulation of “small cell” cell phone towers in the public right-of-way and on city property. Exceptions for historic zones and Coastal Zone are included, but scenic highways and R zones are not included. Local control should be maintained. Cities have capability to properly analyze applications within existing laws and balance protection of neighborhoods with the need for increased wireless capacity

### Background

**More information in the talking points attachment.** WRAC previously weighed in on the issue in 2010, 2011, and 2013.

On June 21, 2017, WRAC authorized sending a letter stating its long advocacy for local control of cell towers (attached below).

Bill text:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180SB649](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB649) *Status:* Senate approved bill, which is similar to a bill from last year. Assembly will consider it next. Telecom companies need more pole space and facilities for 5G capacity.

- Sizes of cell panels are big (6 cu. ft.) and sizes of equipment panels are big (21 cu.ft.), and can be reduced. *[note: sizes have been increased; 35 cu.ft. additional equipment; excluded ancillary equipment unlimited size]*
- Telecom companies can spend more money to rent space on existing public poles (streetlights, etc.).
- Opponents to bill include 100 *[now over 220]* cities, League of California Cities, League of California Counties, American Planning Institute.

Download additional background

[Talking Points re SB-649](#)

[WRAC Cell Tower Letter 12.2.11](#)

[WRAC Cell Tower Letter 12.16.13](#)

[WRACPosition\\_SB649CellTower\\_062117](#)