

Ban on cell towers considered

Trustees set to review contracts with providers

By Peter Hegarty

ALAMEDA — Trustees with the Alameda Unified School District are looking into a ban on the installation of future cell phone towers on campuses, a move that follows parents and others voicing concern that emissions from the towers may threaten children's health.

Trustees also plan to review the district's current contracts with cell phone providers, which have towers at three schools, for loopholes to possibly have them removed.

The actions by trustees on Aug. 12 followed an AT&T representative briefing them on the company's tower at Maya Lin School on Taylor Avenue, saying it meets safety standards and provides a vital service to customers.

"The board is between a rock and a hard place on this one because we are being asked to make a scientific judgment that none of us are equipped to do," Trustee Barbara Kahn said. "We hear the AT&T representative saying it's safe; we have parents cit-

ing information that it's not safe. Our responsibility is essentially to the children, to the parents — those are the people that we serve, and AT&T has a different agenda."

Along with the tower at Maya Lin, AT&T has a tower at Wood Middle School on Grand Avenue, where until recently Sprint/Nextel also had a tower. T-Mobile has a tower at Alameda High School on Encinal Avenue. The district receives about \$150,000 annually for providing the sites, according to school officials.

AT&T's tower at Maya Lin, which generates \$2,167 monthly for the district, was installed in October 2004 and the company's contract provides it with four automatic renewals at five-year intervals. Terms are similar for the other tower sites.

The Maya Lin tower serves the neighborhood roughly bordered by Lincoln and San Antonio avenues and by St. Charles and Page streets, company representative Daren Chan said.

"This site provides service every day for customers who live and work in this area, as well as customers who travel through it, including to and from Maya

Lin," Chan said. "We cannot eliminate this site without significantly impacting our customers in this area."

The company also has a valid contract for use of the school site, he said. Safety concerns about the towers, especially at Maya Lin and Wood, prompted a community workshop earlier this year and since then attorneys for AT&T and the district have been working to determine the future of the towers.

"So far, we are pretty stalemated," Trustee Margie Sherratt said. "That's the frustration our community is feeling."

Trustee Trish Spencer questioned whether AT&T's tower on Webster Street, less than a half-mile from Maya Lin, could provide coverage for the area near the school, and whether the company still installed towers on campuses. Chan said he would return at a future school board meeting with the answers.

Along with calling on district officials to draft a resolution on restricting the installation of future towers, trustees asked officials to follow up on a clause in AT&T's contract for the Wood site that allows the district to end the arrangement with a one-year notice and without cause.

'Shrek the Musical' a hit at the Kofman



The cast of Alameda-based Tomorrow Youth Repertory performs a scene from "Shrek the Musical" at the Kofman Auditorium. The musical drew crowds of more than 1,300 people to the performances, which were held Aug. 15-17. "They realized their goal of providing theater by the community for the community," said Sylvie Schmid of Tomorrow Youth Repertory.

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Notice of Availability and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration
 This is to inform the general public that the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the following project:
Project Title: Wood Middle School Field Lighting Project
Project Description: The Alameda Unified School District is proposing the installation of four (4) field lighting poles each mounted with an assembly of shielded luminaires surrounding the Minor baseball field on the Wood Middle School campus.
Public Review Period: August 28, 2014 - October 1, 2014
Public Hearing Date: September 23, 2014
Public Hearing Location: Board of Education Meeting
 Alameda City Hall
 2263 Santa Clara Avenue
 Alameda, CA 94501
 The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, as well as all referenced documents, will be available for public review at the Alameda Unified School District Office located at 2060 Challenger Drive, Alameda, CA or on the AUSD website at www.alameda.k12.ca.us. Please submit any comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration to the Alameda Unified School District on or before October 1, 2014. Please direct your questions and/or comments to Dr. Robert Clark, Chief Business Officer, Alameda Unified School District, 2060 Challenger Drive, Alameda, CA 94501, or robert@alameda.k12.ca.us.

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