



Press Release

City of Artesia, California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2017: City Opposition to Telecommunications Power Grab

Assists in Gubernatorial Veto

Senate Bill 649 would have represented a major shift in telecommunications policy and law by requiring local governments to lease out the public's property, cap how much cities can lease this space out for, and eliminate the ability for cities to negotiate public benefits for the installation of "small cell" wireless equipment.

The Artesia City Council was a vocal opponent of the bill throughout the legislative process. In July, the City Council took action to authorize Mayor Ali Taj to sign an opposition letter to the bill's sponsor. In August, Mayor Taj stood with local leaders in Long Beach to oppose the power grab by telecommunications companies. Despite these efforts by the City of Artesia and more than 200 other cities, the bill passed in September. At a special meeting earlier this month, the City Council once again took action, authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter urging Governor Brown to veto the bill.

The City Council's determination paid off, as Governor Brown vetoed the bill on October 15th.

The Governor's veto ensures two very important things: 1) the City of Artesia will retain its authority over the placement of cell towers and other wireless equipment in our community, and 2) the City will maintain our ability to permit the placement of small cell devices and impose fees and conditions on those placements. The latter is especially important. Without the ability to negotiate fees for use of City property, the City would lose out on revenue otherwise owed to it. Maintaining that ability means revenue will come into the City when rights of way and other City-owned property are leased, and those funds can be invested in critical services, such as public safety.

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