

September 13, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 556 (Dodd) Street light poles, traffic signal poles: small wireless facilities attachments
Veto Letter from the Cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and the Town of Danville

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and the Town of Danville, we write in respectful opposition to SB 556 (Dodd). We urge you to Veto the bill when brought to your desk for consideration.

This bill will require street light poles and traffic signal poles owned by a local government or local publicly owned electric utility (POU) to be made available for the placement of small wireless facilities, and outlines the rates and fees that may be imposed for this use of these poles.

SB 556 conflicts with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) adopted regulations on wireless services deployment, which cities and counties across the nation are actively implementing. This measure requires local governments to make space available to telecommunications providers without recognizing local authority to manage the public right-of-way preserved in federal law. FCC regulations explicitly enable local governments to ensure that such installations meet appearance and design standards, maintain traffic safety, protect historical resources' integrity, and safeguard citizens' quality of life. To protect the public's investment, the control of the public rights-of-way must remain local.

Additionally, SB 556 creates ambiguity in the fees local governments can charge for access to their infrastructure. Federal law explicitly outlines conditions for valid fees, limiting fees to a "reasonable approximation of the local government's actual and direct costs," including costs to maintain a structure within the right-of-way, process an application or permit, and review a siting application. SB 556 does not to incorporate these federal standards, further restricting fees to "actual cost" and "reasonable actual cost."

For the reasons stated above, we urge you to Veto SB 556 (Dodd).



DANVILLE • DUBLIN • LIVERMORE • PLEASANTON

Sincerely,



Renee S. Morgan
Mayor of Danville



Melissa Hernandez
Mayor of Dublin



Bob Woerner
Mayor of Livermore



Karla Brown
Mayor of Pleasanton

