



**Governmental Relations &  
Legislative Officer**  
Natasha M. Drane

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## County of Sacramento

April 25, 2017

The Honorable Mike McGuire, Chair  
Senate Governance and Finance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 649 (Hueso). Wireless Communications Facilities.  
Oppose (As Amended on 3/28/17)  
Set for Hearing: April 26, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.**

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I respectfully write in opposition to SB 649 (Hueso). This measure removes local authority over public property and eliminates public input and local discretion of the aesthetic and environmental impacts of small cells.

SB 649 would eliminate discretionary review for the installation of small cells in significant portions of communities and everywhere within the public-right-of-way. This would limit Sacramento County's discretion and the ability to consider public input and aesthetics impacts of small cells installed within the public right-of-way in all zones (including residential neighborhoods) or anywhere inside or outside of the public right-of-way in mixed use residential/commercial zones. Counties would only be able to approve small cells located in these areas through an "administrative permit."


SB 649 also contains ambiguities that negatively impact Sacramento County. SB 649 does not clarify what constitutes an administrative permit for the purposes of this bill. It is unclear if a building permit or an encroachment permit qualifies as an administrative permit. The conditions of what can be applied by the local government under this administrative review are also vague. It is also unclear whether the small cell could extend the height of the vertical infrastructure, which currently requires an entitlement review. Sacramento County is concerned about losing discretion over aesthetic considerations, especially since SB 649 would require the installation of small cells on streetlights and other infrastructure that has not previously been used for communications or electrical transmission purposes. Sacramento County should be able to maintain its traditional level of control over the time, place, and manner of encroachments to the public right-of-way to guarantee public safety.

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For these reasons, Sacramento County opposes SB 649. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4227 or [deborde@saccounty.net](mailto:deborde@saccounty.net).

Sincerely,

Natasha Drane  
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

By:   
Elisia De Bord  
Governmental Relations and Legislative Analyst

cc: Senator Ben Hueso  
Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee  
Sacramento County Delegation  
Cara Martinson, CSAC  
Jolena Voorhis, UCC  
APA California  
Chair and Members, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
Steve Cruz, GQHC