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Sonoma County Planning Commission

Actions

Board of Supervisors Chambers
575 Administration Drive, Room 102A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
PlanningAgency@sonoma-county.org

April 16, 2026
Meeting No.: 26-04

Roll Call

Commissioner Kapolchok, District 1
Commissioner Reed, District 2
Commissioner Bahning, District 3
Commissioner Koenigshofer, District 5
Commissioner McCaffery, Chair, District 4

Staff Members

Cecily Condon, Deputy Director - Planning
Doug Bush, Planner III
Ross Markey, Comp Planning Manager
Ivan Jimenez, County Counsel
Stacie Groll, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Klein, Chief Deputy County Counsel

Planning Commission Regular Calendar

Item No.: 1
Time: 1:00 PM
File: ORD26-0001 (Telecommunications Ordinance Update)
Applicant: County of Sonoma
Owner: County of Sonoma
Cont. from: N/A
Staff: Doug Bush
Env. Doc: Categorical Exemption

Proposal: Proposed ordinance amending Sonoma County Code Chapter 26 (Zoning). The proposed ordinance would update and clarify regulations for wireless telecommunications facilities. The amendments would not approve any specific facility or change zoning, land-use designations, or allowable uses. The updates include modernized definitions, clarify permit pathways required under federal law (including ministerial processing for Eligible Facilities Requests), strengthen standards for alternatives analysis and visual review, and establish clear requirements for decommissioning and removal of abandoned facilities.

Recommended

Action: Staff recommends that the Planning Commission:

- Find the proposed ordinance updates consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Code;
- Find the proposed ordinance updates exempt from CEQA; and
- Adopt a resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed updates to the County's telecommunications ordinance.

Location: Countywide outside Coastal Zone

APN: N/A

District: All

Zoning: Various

Action: **Commissioner Koenigshofer** motioned to;

1. Recommend Chapter 2 remain unchanged and that it continue to review use permits for Telecommunication Facilities consistent with current practice. The Commission further recommends that staff report to the Planning Agency on the status of the new ordinance within one year, prior to making any recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding changes to the review authority for Telecommunication Facilities.
2. Recommend changes to the staff recommended ordinance to include the following:
 - a. That the following standards be required for all freestanding commercial facilities:
 - i. Require 1,000 foot noticing radius for neighborhood notification.
 - ii. Facilities shall be designed so as to provide adequate warning of potential hazards as well as location and operator identification and telephone number for public contact. Facilities may also be required to provide anti-climb devices or other security measures.
 - iii. Significant adverse impacts on biotic resources, including any threatened rare or endangered species, shall be mitigated

- b. Second recommendation that a pipeline provision be adopted that applies the standards of this ordinance to all use permit application for freestanding commercial facilities not in complete status as of the effective date of this ordinance. Seconded by **Commissioner Reed** and moved with a 5-0-0-0 vote.

Appeal Deadline: Not Appealable

Resolution No.: 26-004

Vote:

Commissioner Kapolchok	Yes
Commissioner Reed	Yes
Commissioner Bahning	Yes
Commissioner Koenigshofer	Yes
Commissioner McCaffery	Yes

Ayes: 5
Noes: 0
Absent: 0
Abstain: 0