



# Applying the Precautionary Principle

Request for Wireless Code Change  
(Olympia Municipal Code 18.44.090)

Proposed Olympia Wireless Code  
● Change

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## Our community believes in the precautionary principle

### The Elements of a Successful Wireless Facilities Siting Process in Olympia

Minimizing the adverse community impacts of new wireless facilities while adequately meeting the growing demand for wireless services as of 8-3-2014

This ORCA list is intended to kick-start a conversation with the community, the industry, and other stakeholders about what a successful WCF siting process might look like today, given all of the changes that have occurred in our community and in the industry since 2006. It reflects the values that informed the drafting of the City's current WCF ordinance and reveal neighborhood observations on key issues.

A successful wireless facility siting process would...

1. **Be proactive** – Anticipate future WCF needs, identify preferred sites, and set siting standards that would meet those needs before new or enhanced facilities were proposed.
2. **Be clear, predictable, efficient, and fair** – Rules and expectations are clearly set forth, policies consistently applied, and decisions made in a timely, cost-effective way. The process would include opportunities for residents to meet with carriers to identify sites acceptable to the community that also meet industry needs. The process would minimize the chance of lengthy and costly delays and litigation.
3. **Maximize local control over WCF siting** – Within the context of federal and state laws and regulations, the City would retain as much authority as possible over the siting process.
4. **Minimize adverse community impacts** – Minimizes adverse visual, aesthetic, public safety, property value, and potential public health and environmental impacts by reviewing siting locations, and the use of siting design and other technologies that camouflage and/or reduce the size and number of WCFs.

- 8. Apply the precautionary principle to reduce potential health effects.** Within the scientific community, there is debate over what impacts WCFs may have on human health, especially on children. However, federal law prohibits local communities from considering human health effects when evaluating proposed sites for new WCFs. Within the context of these legal constraints, the community, the industry, and the City would work together to identify sites for new WCFs that minimize the potential risk to human health by applying the precautionary principle. This principle states that **“when an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.”**

We want and need to hear from you to reach agreement on what's most important to us as a community as we update our WCF siting process. Please send your ideas, comments, suggestions to Peter Gutches, CMA's WCF Subcommittee Chair at [wgutches@olympia.com](mailto:wgutches@olympia.com). The ideas generated by this discussion will be used to help develop recommendations on what changes, if any, should be made to the City's current WCF ordinance and siting process.

# Our community is opposing cell towers at our schools

- Northeast Neighborhood Association
- South Capitol Neighborhood Association
- Lincoln Elementary school parents



News > Local News

## NE Olympia neighborhood blocks cell tower, opens dialogue with AT&T

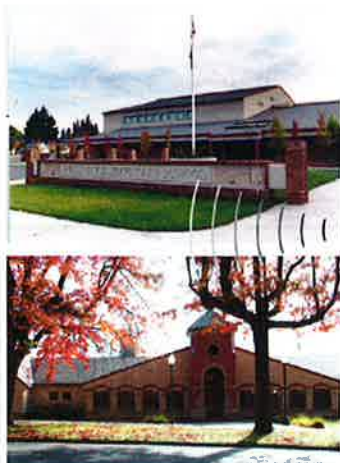
BY ANDY HOBBS  
ahobbs@theolympian.com December 17, 2013

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# But our wireless code is silent on our schools

- Right now, cell phone towers can be placed anywhere near a school



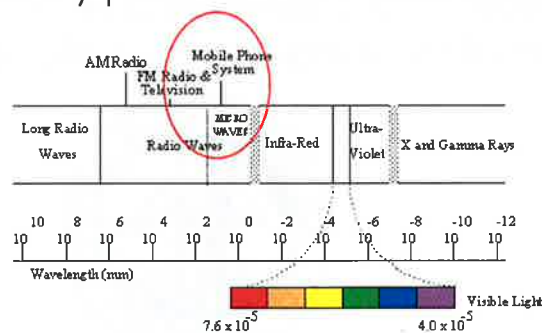
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## We should apply common sense rather than debate the science

How do we apply the precautionary principle in our own lives? For example, "just in case" .....

- We wear rubber gloves when dealing with blood
- We wear hands free devices for our cell phones
- We don't constantly peer into the microwave



The Electromagnetic Spectrum

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## We know our understanding of our world is always changing

- Consider how our views of mercury, lead paint, x-rays, and asbestos have changed.
- What are the consequences if we are wrong?
- What are the consequences if we are right?



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# Our children are more vulnerable than we are

## The American Academy of Pediatrics (2012)

“Children are **disproportionately affected** by environmental exposures, including cell phone radiation. The differences in bone density and the amount of fluid in a child's brain compared to an adult's brain could allow children to absorb greater quantities of RF energy deeper into their brains than adults”



# What can you do?

- Apply the precautionary principle and make this code change:

Table 44.01 PERMITTED WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES BY ZONING DISTRICT

Zoning District Group	Antenna Element Replacement	CONCEALED		Collocated or Combined on Existing WCF	ROW Attached Structure - 34.5 kV+	Mitigation of Existing WCF	Expanding Existing Antenna Array	NON-CONCEALED	
		Attached WCF	Freestanding WCF					Attached WCF	Freestanding WCF
Group 4	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
<b>SITES WITHIN 300 FEET OF GROUP 4 - NEIGHBORHOOD ZONES</b>									
Groups 1-3	P	C	C	C	C	C	C	N	N
<b>SITE WITHIN 1000 FEET OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>									
Groups 1-4	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
P - Permitted		C - Conditional Use Permit		N- Not Permitted					