

Working with a school district

by Mark Graham

Mark@keepcellantennasawayfromourelkgrovehomes.org

July 24, 2020

In this document you will find these letters, all sent by email.

Email to teachers union leaders

Email to President of the teachers union

Follow up email to President of the teachers union

2nd follow up email to President of the teachers union

3rd follow up email to President of the teachers union

4th follow up email to President of the teachers union

5th follow up email to President of the teachers union

6th follow up email to President of the teachers union

Excerpts from newsletter containing medium length letter to school board members and superintendent

Facebook post containing short length letter to school board members and superintendent

Email to school district director of facilities

Email to teachers union leaders

Subject: New 4G and 5G cell antennas to be installed at EG schools

June 28, 2020

Mr. (names) and the entire Executive Board,

Did you know that the City of Elk Grove and AT&T are aiming at Monterey Trail H.S. and Laguna Creek H.S. for new, powerful cell antennas, each with eight 4G ports & two 5G ports? This is per permit application 19-07227 filed in December, 2019 with the City. 3 other cell antennas on that same permit will also affect our schools.

Do Elk Grove parents know this? Does the Elk Grove Education Association know this? Doubtful, because they City has made ZERO effort to notify residents and obviously AT&T keeps it a big secret.

According to thousands of scientific studies long term exposure to electromagnetic radiation is hazardous to your health. It damages the nervous, respiratory, endocrine and reproductive systems. Cell antenna electromagnetic radiation will harm students and teachers 24/7.

<https://emfscientist.org/>

Here is one resident's account.

[Link to an op-ed in our local newspaper by a resident who lives near one of the high schools.]

The City has other options and does not have to issue this permit. Contact the City Council to learn more and express your opposition to this at [email address of our City Clerk].

Feel free to contact me about this.

Good luck!

Mark Graham

Keep Cell Antennas Away From Our Elk Grove Homes
<http://www.keepcellantennasawayfromoureelkgrovehomes.org/>
Sent from my hard wired computer

Email to President of the teachers union

Subject: Re: New 4G and 5G cell antennas to be installed at EG schools

June 30, 2020

Mr. [Last name],

I sent a message to EGEA Leaders on Facebook and someone replied that I should email you.

Have you had a chance to review the message I sent you? This is going to be a crisis for Elk Grove schools starting with these 2. The time to stop it and tell the City what you want and do not want is right away.

Would it be possible for me or one of the residents across the street from MTHS to speak to you at your next board meeting?

Many thanks,

Mark Graham

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Sent from my hard wired computer

Follow up email to President of the teachers union

(sent on June 30, 2020)

(after receiving a response from the president of the teachers union)

Subject: Re: New 4G and 5G cell antennas to be installed at EG schools

[First name],

Thank you - I hope we can work together on this at least briefly.

I will cc [first and last name of a Mom], who lives across the street from MTHS and whose children go to Elk Grove schools, on this message.

This is a complex issue and I know it well because I have studied it and fought it on behalf of Elk Grove residents since late February, 2018. The Mayor and the City Council Members each thanked and acknowledged me the day the City Council voted on the new cell antenna policy, which was August 28, 2019. It's a good policy in some ways but bad in other ways, such as aiming at schools.

AT&T's coverage map shows they already have 5G coverage throughout Elk Grove.

I believe that students at Monterey Trail H.S. and Laguna Creek H.S. (site of 2 of the first 5 cell antennas) (and all the other schools) can already call their parents and vice versa. If that is true then the purpose of these antennas is to gather data from the students' phones to sell them products and services and to make them life long cell phone addicts.

Screen time is inversely related to successful education.

<http://www.keepcellantennasawayfromoureelkgrovehomes.org/effects-on-children/>

"The MRI's found significant differences in the brains of some kids who use smartphones, tablets, and video games more than seven hours a day."

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/groundbreaking-study-examines-effects-of-screen-time-on-kids-60-minutes/>

Best wishes,

Mark Graham

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Sent from my hard wired computer

2nd follow up email to President of the teachers union

Subject: Re: New 4G and 5G cell antennas to be installed at EG schools

July 8, 2020

[First name],

Any word on this? It's a complicated issue and I know it like the back of my hand. Would love to have 5 to 7 minutes to brief you and EGEA at your next meeting, even if by conference call.

[First and last name, the Mom I have been working with on this], copied on this message, lives across the street from Monterey Trail H.S. and her kids go to Elk Grove schools. She is opposed to the cell antenna there and at the other schools.

Both of us would like to speak to you and EGEA about this.

Best wishes,
Mark Graham

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Sent from my hard wired computer

3rd follow up email to President of the teachers union

Subject: Re: New 4G and 5G cell antennas to be installed at EG schools

July 16, 2020

[First name],

I am checking in again with you on this. Any update? Any response to my (our) requests?

Mark Graham

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Sent from my hard wired computer

4th follow up email to President of the teachers union

Sent on July 16, 2020

Subject: Re: New 4G and 5G cell antennas to be installed at EG schools

Hi [First name],

Thank you for the update. That sounds like a big step. Thank you!

As far as you know does EGUSD intend to make efforts to rectify or mitigate the proposed placement of the antennas?

Does EGEA intend to make any such efforts? I mean directly.

Best wishes,

Mark Graham

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<http://www.keepcellantennasawayfromoureelkgrovehomes.org/>

Sent from my hard wired computer

5th follow up email to President of the teachers union

Sent on July 16, 2020

Subject: Re: New 4G and 5G cell antennas to be installed at EG schools

I totally understand why your focus has been where it has been. An unprecedented situation and challenge.

I fully appreciate your updates.

Mark

6th follow up email to President of the teachers union

Sent on July 20, 2020

Subject: New 4G and 5G cell antennas to be installed at EG schools

Hi [First name, the name of the president of the teachers union],

I have organized a letter writing campaign to persuade the school board to take a position opposing the cell antennas at schools. Just FYI. Both [names of 2 of our school board trustees] wrote me short messages saying they had forwarded my letter to district staff. it seems they are taking it seriously, a good sign.

Best wishes,

Mark

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Sent from my hard wired computer

Excerpts from newsletter containing medium length letter to school board members and superintendent

An unprecedented opportunity

July 19, 2020

Dear reader,

Please take a couple of minutes today to send a message to the Elk Grove school board. We have an unprecedented opportunity, consisting of support from the teachers union, to slow down and greatly reduce the spread of 4G and 5G cell antennas in the City of Elk Grove - especially at schools. This is urgent!

In this message is a letter you can send the school board and the City Council.

The school board meeting is on July 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. You can send in your public comment for this meeting by email at any time, even after the meeting, OR by 4:30 on July 21 through the school board's web form. This message contains a link to the school board web form.

Feel free to ask me any questions. Thank you in advance for writing.

You, the Elk Grove resident who takes the time to write, are what gives this campaign strength. Together we can do a great thing for students, teachers and schools.

Mark Graham

Keep Cell Antennas Away From Our Elk Grove Homes
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Elk Grove educators have offered to support any school district opposition to cell antennas

Elk Grove educators have provided what could be a turning point in the battle over cell antennas.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to keep cell antennas away from Elk Grove public schools – or at least regulate their operation to minimize their harmful effects. We have the support of the Elk Grove Education Association (EGEA, the school district).

EGEA has told the school district that it will support any school district effort to rectify or mitigate the proposed placement of the antennas. Now all we have to do is convince the Board of Trustees to make such an effort. This involves YOU, dear Reader.

You are the next step! This campaign to Keep Cell Antennas Away From Our Elk Grove Homes derives its strength from YOU, dear reader. We should leverage the opportunity that the teachers

union has provided by telling the school board to oppose cell antennas at Elk Grove schools
That is the basic message. There is more to it than that and the letters I have written for you to
send to the school board and City Council explain it.

This newsletter contains a sample letter to the Board of Trustees for their meeting on Tuesday
night, July 21, with instructions for how to send it. Thank you in advance for writing. Feel free
to skip directly to the A letter you can send to the school board and the City Council .

A letter you can send to the school board

Here is a sample letter you can send. Feel free to personalize and edit it.
Please write to the school board - especially if you have a child in the Elk Grove public schools.
Please forward this message to at least one other parent of an EGUSD student.

There are 2 ways you can write to the school board: by email (at any time) or by their web form
by 4:30 on July 21. Below is a medium length letter recommended to send by email and then a
shorter letter recommended to send by the school board's web form. Please contact me if you
have any difficulty or want tech support help on this.

Medium length version, recommended to send by email

Please send this sample letter to the Board of Trustees and Superintendent [Last name]. Their
email addresses are:

[School board members' email addresses]

Please send a bcc to me at Mark@keepcellantennasawayfromoureelkgrovehomes.org

Medium length letter to school board members and superintendent

July 19, 2020

Dear Elk Grove Board of Trustees, Superintendent Hoffman and staff,

My name is Mark Graham and I live in Elk Grove.

A school is like a family. Students get more from and give more to their school family when they interact with it than when they are on their phones.

Several months ago I learned that the City is considering issuing a permit for 5 cell antennas in Elk Grove, all near public schools. Two of them are AT schools: 8661 Power Inn Road at Monterey Trail High School and 9050 Vicino Drive at Laguna Creek High School. This should not happen to any school.

The City has broad regulatory power over the permitting of cell antennas. The City needs to acknowledge that it has such power and exercise it.

Having a high powered 4G and 5G cell antenna right next to the school is going to distract the students and be detrimental to their education and their focus on their classes. Students should not be on their cell phones during school. Having more and faster wireless internet access is just going to be a very tempting distraction to students. Elk Grove schools already have wifi in the classroom and these antennas are not really for education. In fact they will undermine education.

One of the City's options is to limit the hours of operation of the antennas to only the last 1 hour before the start of the school day and the first 1 to 1 1/2 hours right after the end of the school day. Students who are on campus could use whatever service is provided without being distracted from their classes during those times.

Federal law partially preempts City regulation of the placement, construction and modification of cell antennas for certain reasons, but harm to education is not one of those reasons. Also, federal law does not preempt City regulation of the operation of cell antennas, which is what I propose.

Also, the City should not add any more cell antenna sites that are near schools. I ask the Board to communicate these recommendations to the City of Elk Grove as soon as possible.

Finally the teachers union will support you on this. I just learned that the Elk Grove teachers union "authorized EGUSD Admin to utilize/enlist our association as a concerned party in any efforts they engage in to rectify or mitigate the proposed placement of the antennas."

Please speak up for students, for teachers and for schools. Please speak up for students, for teachers and for schools. Help students stay focused on their school family, education, and real life.

Please respond to this message.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Graham

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Sent from my hard wired computer

Facebook post containing short length letter to school board members and superintendent

July 20, 2020

Dear reader,

Please take a couple of minutes today to send a message to the Elk Grove school board. We have an unprecedented opportunity, consisting of support from the teachers union, to slow down and greatly reduce the spread of 4G and 5G cell antennas in the City of Elk Grove - especially at schools. This is urgent!

In this message is a letter you can send the school board. Feel free to personalize it.

The school board meeting is on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. You can send in your public comment for this meeting by email at any time, even after the meeting, OR by 4:30 on July 21 through the school board's web form. This message contains a link to the school board web form.

Feel free to ask me any questions. Thank you in advance for writing.

You, the Elk Grove resident who takes the time to write, are what gives this campaign strength.

Together we can do a great thing for students, teachers and schools.

Mark Graham

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There are 2 ways you can write to the school board: by email (at any time) or by their web form by 4:30 on July 21. Please contact me if you have any difficulty or want tech support help on this.

Please send this sample letter to the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Hoffman. Their email addresses are:

ealbiani@egusd.net, cdmartin@egusd.net, nchaires@egusd.net, cforcina@egusd.net, cmadisonsr@aol.com, anperez@egusd.net, bsinghal@egusd.net, SuptOffice@egusd.net,

Please send a bcc to me at Mark@keepcellantennasawayfromoureelkgrovehomes.org

Here is the school board's public comment web form for the July 21 meeting.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwdDaaBgvuGaYFVBQqwVfHeO0Y-zyD_30P4b9knb2c0WQJmg/viewform

which you can find on

<http://www.egusd.net/about/leadership/board-of-education/virtual-egusd-board-meeting-july-21/>

by clicking on, "Submit a public comment for the July 21, 2020 Board Meeting." Remember a personalized letter is better.

Dear Elk Grove Board of Trustees, Superintendent Hoffman and staff,

My name is (your name) and I live in Elk Grove.

My son / daughter attends (name of the school that your child attends, if any). A school is like a family. Students get more from and give more to their family when they interact with it than when they are on their phones.

I learned recently that the City is considering issuing a permit for 5 cell antennas in Elk Grove, all near public schools. Two of them are AT schools: 8661 Power Inn Road at Monterey Trail High School and 9050 Vicino Drive at Laguna Creek High School. I do not want this to happen to my child's school. It should not happen to any school.

Having a high powered 4G and 5G cell antenna right next to the school is going to distract the students from their focus on their classes. Students should not be on their cell phones during school. Having more and faster wireless internet access is just going to be a very tempting distraction to students.

Please ask the City to deny the application and to not issue the permits.

One of the City's options is to limit the hours of operation of the antennas to only the last 1 hour before the start of the school day and the first 1 1/2 hours at the end of the school day. Students could use whatever service is provided without being distracted from their classes or school activities during those times.

The City should not add any more cell antenna sites that are near schools. I ask the Board to communicate these recommendations to the City of Elk Grove as soon as possible.

Finally the teachers union will support you on this. I just learned that the teachers union "authorized EGUSD Admin to utilize our association as a concerned party in any efforts they engage in to rectify or mitigate the proposed placement of the antennas."

Please speak up for students, for teachers and for schools. Help students stay focused on their school family, education, and real life.

Please respond to this message.

Thank you.

[Your name and address (or street, or just "Elk Grove resident")]

Email to school district director of facilities

Subject: Board of Trustees meeting on July 21, 2020

July 22, 2020

Mr. [Last name],

Last night during the school board meeting Ms. [Last name] read my public comment. She said that there were also 12 supporting public comments. It was about the proposal by the City and AT&T to install new cell antennas near 5 public schools including 2 at public schools: Monterey Trail H.S. and Laguna Creek H.S. These public comments made specific requests of the school board.

Can we talk about this?

My phone number is 916-897-2749.

I will copy [First and last name] on this message. [First name] also wrote to the Board for the meeting last night and on May 28, 2020.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Graham

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