



**CITY of CALABASAS**  
**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

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**DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS**

**FROM: MICHAEL RUSSO, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF OPPOSITION TO AT&T's APPLICATION TO RELINQUISH ITS COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN COPPER-BASED LANDLINE TELEPHONES IN CALABASAS, AND OTHER AREAS**

**MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

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**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:**

The purpose of this Staff Report is to provide the City Council with information on AT&T's application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to be relieved of its obligation as Carrier of Last Resort. The application is currently pending before the CPUC. Mayor Weintraub asked for a letter to be drafted stating the City's opposition to AT&T's application.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:**

A Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) is a telecommunications service provider that must provide basic telephone service (typically copper-based landline service) to any customer requesting it within a specified area. AT&T's application to relinquish its COLR obligations applies to not only Calabasas, but much of its service area in California.

Of course, Calabasas sits in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains and has been designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by CAL Fire. Wildfires are common in our region. 2018's Woolsey Fire forced the entire City of Calabasas to

evacuate. Many of those evacuation orders came over traditional landlines which AT&T is now proposing to drop. AT&T may be doing this in other parts of the United States and replacing traditional landlines with AT&T Mobility or a different voice service; but the City of Calabasas is different and deserves special consideration because this plan relies on cellular technology which will fail if a wildfire were to destroy cell towers.

The City of Calabasas – and its neighboring cities – are in mountainous terrain and cellular service is poor, even in the best of times. AT&T's application reduces communication options for area residents and businesses and leaves our communities in a vulnerable position during natural disasters.

AT&T wants customers to use Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology for its “landline” phones. VoIP is not a reliable option as power outages and internet connectivity would also be compromised in either an earthquake or a wildfire.

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

That the City Council approve the draft letter to the CPUC stating its opposition to the AT&T application.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A: Draft letter to be considered
- B: CPUC Fact Sheet
- C: CPUC Public Hearings Statement
- D: AT&T Letter to Customers