

Dear County Commissioners:

It has come to our attention that Missoula County building permit (MB 25057234), initially issued by the Building Department on March 10, 2025, was reissued on July 7, 2026, after it had exceeded its 180-day work suspension or abandonment clause.

The Missoula County Commissioners formally approved the Swan Valley Neighborhood Plan on February 12, 2026. The Swan Valley Community Council, in accordance with State of Montana law and with the guidance and support of the Missoula County government undertook a two-year long extensive community participatory process to provide the County with an updated Neighborhood Plan that clearly communicated the values and preferences of the community.

The issue of cell towers was raised multiple times throughout the process and in the section on Future Land Use Strategies (page 15) a specific recommendation on new cell towers was offered:

"To the greatest extent possible, protect scenic views and dark night skies by prohibiting telecommunication towers over 200 feet high. These facilities should be encouraged to co-locate on existing towers, mandate appropriate screening and buffering, and develop in a way that is aesthetically consistent with the rural nature of the area."

Given the County Commissioners' approval of the Swan Valley Neighborhood Plan which includes the clearly expressed desire of the community to preferentially co-locate new cells towers on existing structures and prohibit tower height above two hundred feet, we are asking the County Commissioners to instruct the Building Department to immediately pause the authorization to build the new 260-foot-tall cell tower. A communication tower, at this height, requires the installation of year-round 24/7 strobe lighting in accordance with Federal regulations. In accordance with the values expressed and desires in the County-approved Neighborhood Plan, we ask you to respect the clearly stated community preferences you asked us to provide to the Missoula County government.

Considering this new permit issued on July 7, 2026 is in contradiction with the Swan Valley Neighborhood Plan that was approved on February 12, 2026, we appreciate your prompt attention to this issue and this letter is an official request to pause construction of this cell tower by implementing an Emergency/Interim Zoning District in the Swan Valley in regard to cell towers over 200ft as outlined in the Swan Valley Neighborhood Plan, similar to the action taken in Bonner to prevent the gravel pit. We hope you can ensure that the County political leadership (Commissioners) and administrative units (Building Department) are aligned in respecting and implementing the expressed wishes of the Condon community through its recently updated Neighborhood Plan.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Swan Valley Community Council