

# Agenda Statement

**Meeting Date:** May 19, 2025  
**To:** City Council  
**From:** Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager  
**Agenda Item:** Resolution 2025-021 Expressing Support for the Portage Valley Cell Tower



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## **BACKGROUND, JUSTIFICATION, & INTENT:**

Verizon Wireless has submitted a Conditional Use Permit application to the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission for the installation of a Type 1 monopole telecommunications tower in Portage Valley (Project No. 2025-0067). While the tower site lies outside Whittier's city limits, it directly affects the primary corridor used by residents, visitors, and freight traveling to and from Whittier. Cell service in Portage Valley, including the Bear Valley tunnel staging area, is currently non-existent. This presents public safety concerns and limits both communication and access to time-sensitive information for travelers and emergency responders.

The proposed tower would fill this critical coverage gap, improving safety, travel reliability, and overall access for those navigating this shared infrastructure corridor. The City Council is being asked to express formal support for the project to encourage its approval by the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission, whose hearing is scheduled for June 2, 2025.

## **CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:**

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Legislative Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Comprehensive Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Whittier Code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Other: <i>Greater Whittier Chamber of Commerce Resolution</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**FISCAL NOTE:** No fiscal impact to the City of Whittier. The resolution expresses policy support only and does not obligate City staff time or resources.

**ATTORNEY REVIEW:** ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Administration recommends approval of Resolution 2025-021.