

Vote NO on AB-537

WHY? Applications for small wireless facilities are increasing, FCC shot clocks* have been shortened, local governments are struggling to keep up, and now telecom corporations want “deemed approved” applied to the new, shorter shot clocks, and advanced approval for any new technologies.

- **AB-537 does not align California law with Federal law.** It imposes much stricter “shot clocks” and “deemed approved” status – ideas that have been rejected by the FCC.¹
- Even if serious questions remain about an antenna application - including violations of local codes - “Deemed approved” means the telecom can proceed with construction, and the city or county must go to court to try to stop it.
- Both the FCC and Federal Courts have agreed that if an application is not approved in time the **telecom corporation must be required to obtain court approval before construction.**² This bill transfers the financial burden of going to court to cities and counties to stop construction.
- Cities and counties with part-time officials and those with complex planning needs may be unable to meet the shortened shot clock deadlines for good reasons (i.e. COVID-19, wildfire emergencies, etc.). As a result, permits could be “deemed approved” before local officials have even had time to discuss, no less review them for completeness and safety.
- Telecoms may submit hundreds of applications at one time, intentionally overwhelming local authorities and taking advantage of this new law to install antennas without proper review, putting public safety at risk.

2. This bill prohibits a city or county from denying permits for known or yet-to-be discovered technologies, such as facial recognition, that citizens may not want in their communities and that could pose a risk to privacy and security.

** A “shot clock” establishes time in which State and local governments must complete their review.*

¹ FCC Order 18 – 133, Declaratory Ruling And Third Report And Order September, 2018, § 119-20

² Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. section 332(c)(7)(B)(v)