

Crown Castle – Wireless Facility at 423 San Pablo  
9/19/11: Project No. 11-004

## Project Description

- The Project consists of replacing four (4) existing panels with four (4) new ones
- The original grant was authorized by the PUC for six, 6-foot panels
- The panels were replaced approximately 6 years ago in connection with the EVDO maintenance upgrade which brought better service to the community. The replacement panels consisted of four, 48-inch panels
- The Project requests permission to replace those panels with new ones of a similar shape and size, and therefore, is within the scope of the original grant

# City's Standard of Review

Substantial evidence is required to support the finding that:

- 1) strict compliance with the Planning and Zoning Code would not provide for adequate radio-frequency signal reception; and
- 2) no other alternative solutions that meet the development standards are feasible.

## Alternative Solutions Analysis

- Reduce Pole Height to Comply with Municipal Code (48 foot maximum)
- Relocate VZW's Facility to Existing Buildings/Construct New Monopole
- Relocate VZW's Facility to Other Existing Sites

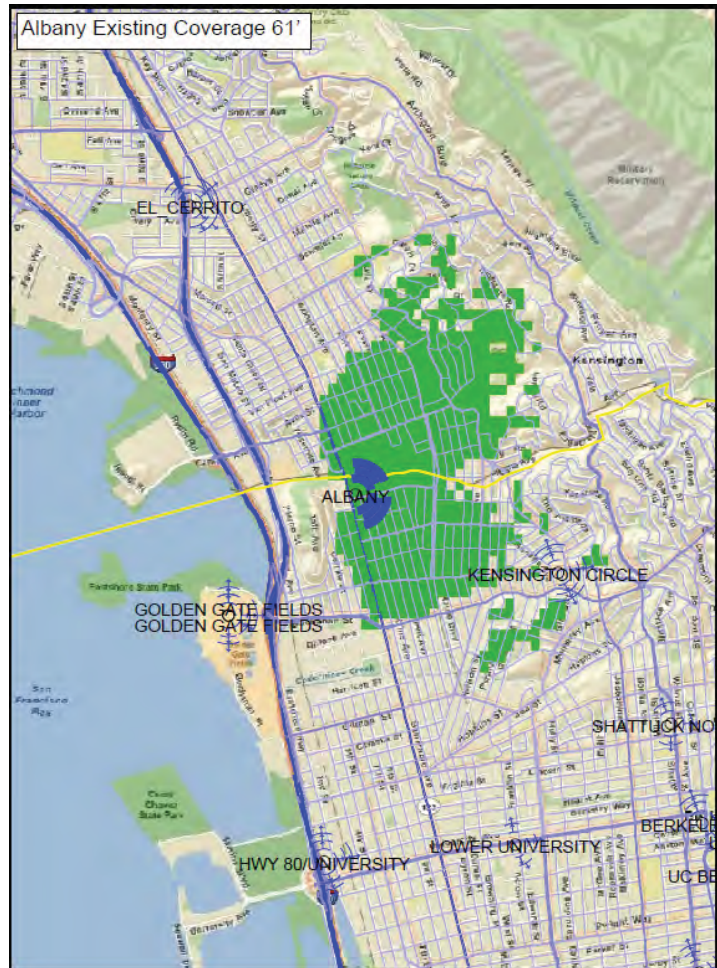
**Existing Coverage of the Albany Site**

In-building coverage is the norm for wireless carriers to achieve. Therefore, the reference signal is viewed at a strength of -75dBm.

Coverage area consists of both commercial and residential. Shopping malls and department stores along San Pablo Avenue as well as small businesses, cafes, and restaurants, and substantial residential in the surrounding neighborhoods.

2008 population census puts the population covered at 15,000.

The Albany site covers 1.7 sq miles. In the city of Albany this translates to 9,500 pops covered and 0.9 sq miles.

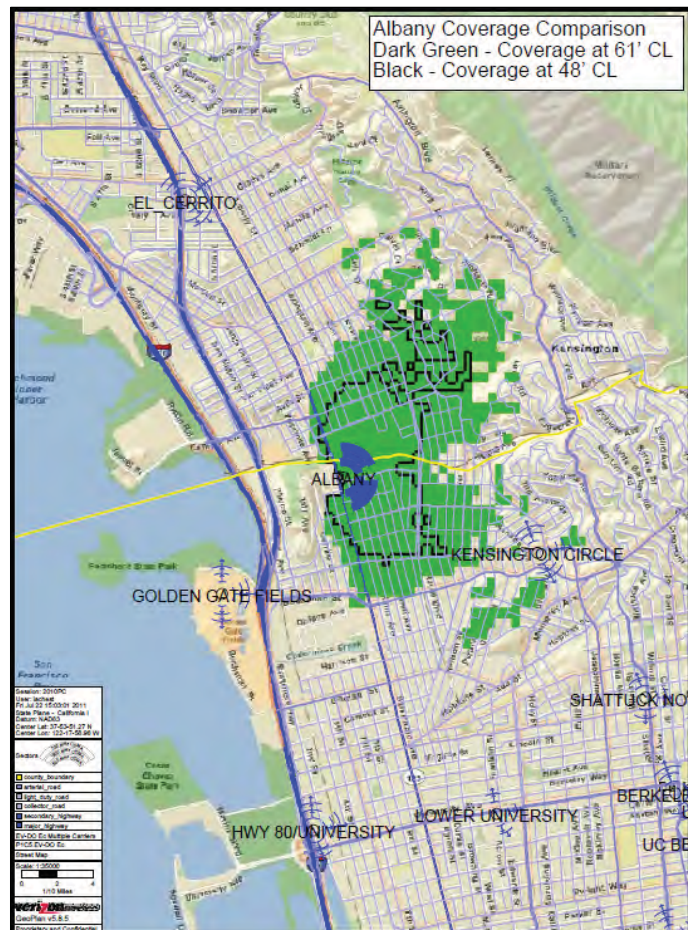


**Coverage Comparison**

Black line indicates the reduced coverage due to dropping antenna height. More than half of area is lost (1.1 sq miles and 9,000 pops lost).

In the City of Albany, this translates to 6,300 pops lost, and 0.6 sq miles.

This will result in dropped calls from this site and neighboring sites. Call loading will increase on the surrounding sites which cannot handle it. Albany is already a highly congested site.





**Albany Cinema Sign Structure  
1115 Solano Avenue**

Too close to Berkeley sites; coverage will overlap greatly.  
Too far from existing Albany site. Requires construction of an additional site to meet the coverage of Albany site.



**500 San Pablo Avenue**

Will only provide coverage similar to lowering existing Albany site to 45-48'.



**718 San Pablo Avenue - Ford Sign**

Location is blocked by trees. Will only provide similar coverage to lowering existing Albany site to 45-48'.



**727 San Pablo Avenue**

Will only provide coverage similar to lowering the existing Albany site to 45-48'.



**811 San Pablo Avenue Royal Café**

Architectural structure is too far from existing Albany site. Requires construction of an additional site to meet coverage of Albany site.



**916 San Pablo Avenue**

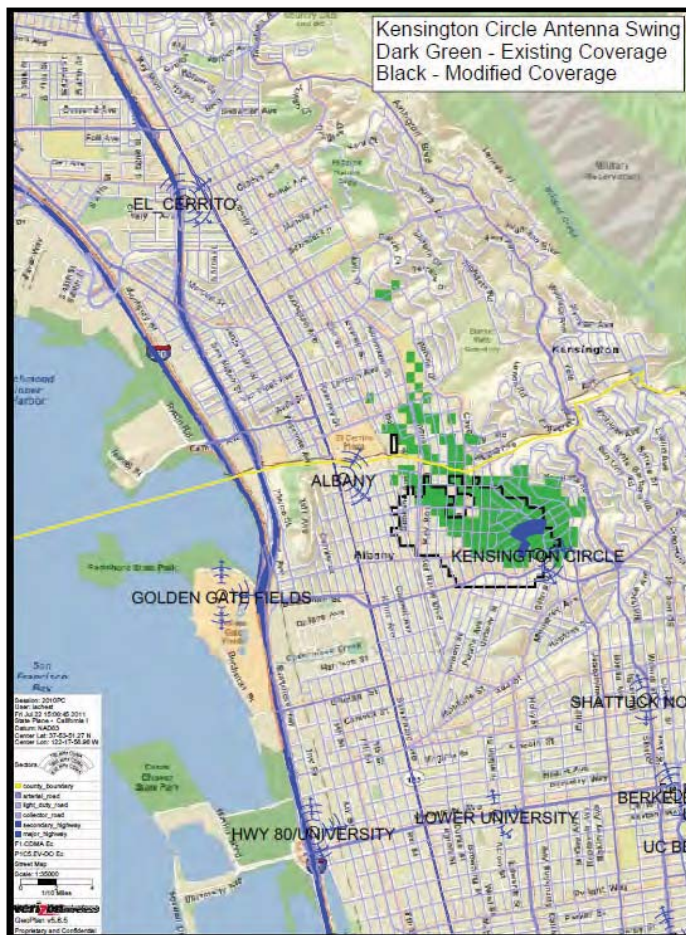
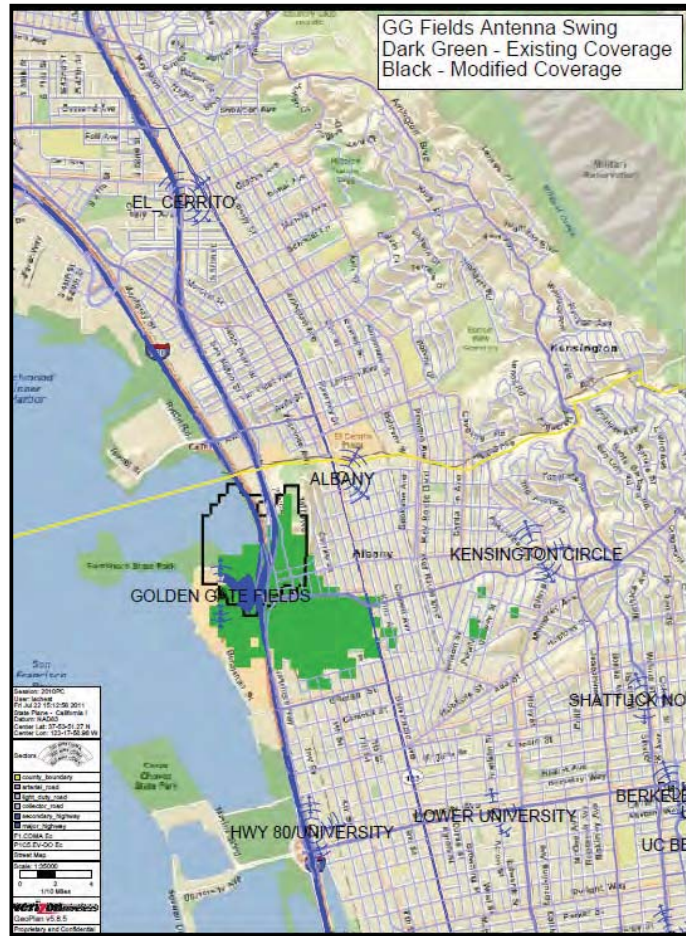
This 3-story residential/retail structure w/ penthouse is too far from existing Albany site. Requires construction of an additional site to meet coverage of Albany site.

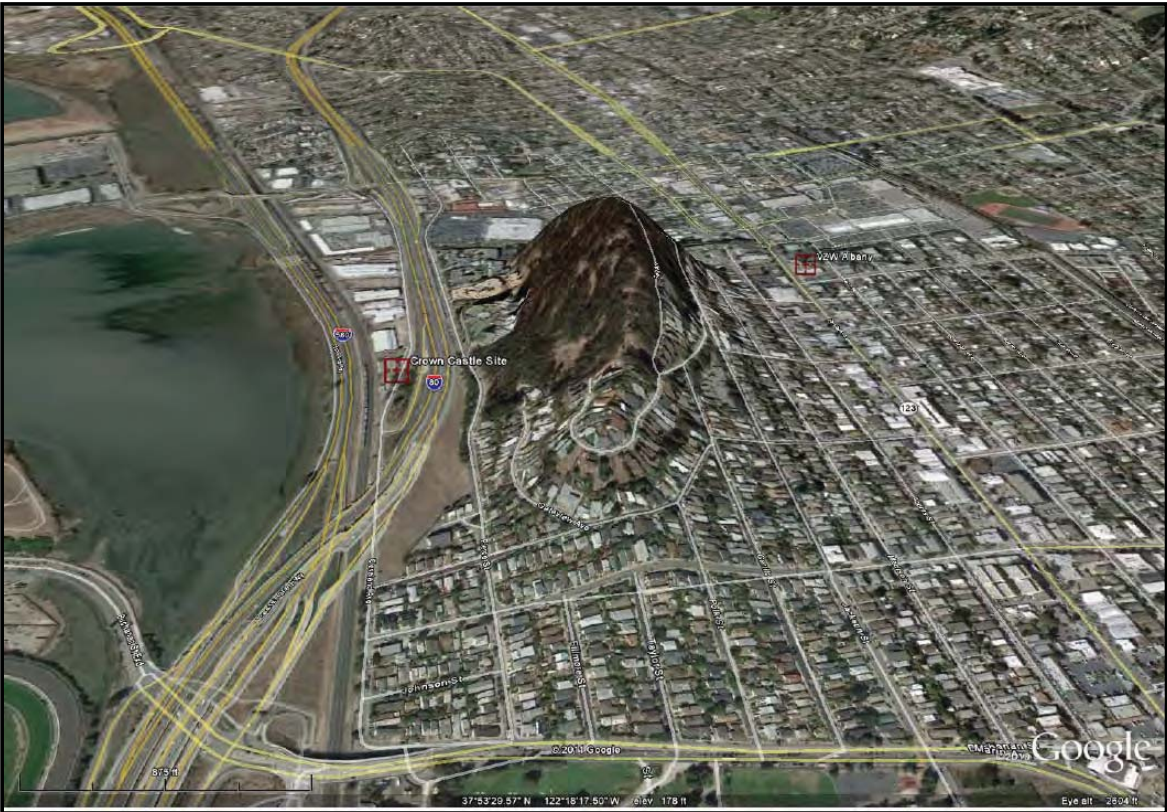




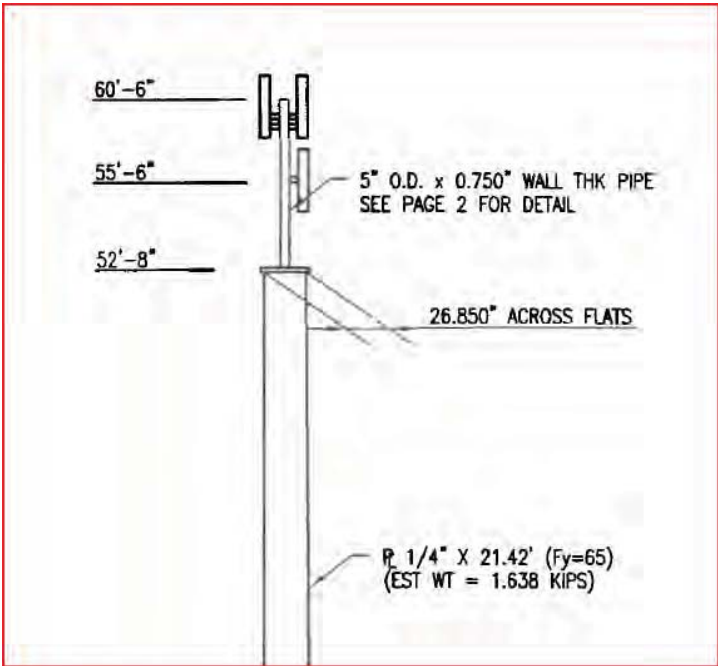








# Crown Site -Kensington (880503)



# LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- CPUC Has Original Jurisdiction as the Permitting Agency for the Albany Site
- Municipalities cannot regulate technology
- Albany's Municipal Code Encourages Co-location of Facilities
- Replacement of the Antennas is the "Least Intrusive Means"

## Additional Design Considerations For Existing Albany Site

- Replace Existing Mounting Brackets to Achieve "Tighter" Configuration
- Repaint Pole
- Repaint Panels

# Conclusion

- Strict compliance (reducing the pole height to 48 feet) will not provide for adequate radio-frequency signal reception
- Other alternative solutions discussed tonight do not meet coverage and capacity objectives (replace panels and improve coverage)
- The proposed Project complies with the Municipal Code because it minimizes stand-alone facilities by replacing the existing panels with panels of a similar shape and size, rather than requiring construction of an additional facility