



Agenda Report

December 5, 2011

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Department of Public Works
SUBJECT: APPEAL OF PROPOSED WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT GRAND AVENUE AND CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD (IE05372C)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that this action is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15268 Ministerial Projects; and
2. Approve the application to allow the installation of a wireless telecommunications facility on top of an existing wood utility pole at the northeast corner of Grand Avenue and California Boulevard with mitigations.

BACKGROUND:

At the continued public hearing held on November 14, 2011, it was recommended that the public hearing be continued for three weeks in order to evaluate an additional location (Alternative 11) on a replacement utility pole on the north side of California Boulevard just east of Grand Avenue.

On November 19, 2011, City staff and T-Mobile representatives conducted a field meeting with Mr. Gabriel Yeung (resident at 558 S. Grand Avenue), Mr. Dana Ostenson (resident at 555 S. Grand Avenue) and Ms. Gretchen Brickson to discuss the feasibility of this alternative location.

This location was originally submitted by T-Mobile back in 2007 which was prior to the adoption of PMC 12.22. The existing wood utility pole is located just west of the east property line at 558 S. Grand Avenue as depicted in Attachment A. The original submittal proposed the replacement of the 30 foot pole with a 50 foot pole (43 feet above adjacent grade) as shown in Attachment B. Note that there are existing telecommunications, but no overhead power facilities. The original submittal also included flush-mounted antenna arrays and below ground ancillary facilities. City staff rejected this location because the replacement pole required to meet the coverage

objective is significantly taller than the existing condition and Alternative 11 is located approximately 25 feet from the upper patio of 558 S. Grand Avenue, whereas the subject antenna site is approximately 70 feet from the upper patio area. Attachment C is an aerial photo showing the relative distances in relation to the residence. Lastly, the proposed antenna array was to be mounted on stand-off brackets rather than concealed within a radome assembly.

Staff Findings:

Based on staff's re-evaluation of the alternative site and discussion of these findings with the adjacent property owner, it was determined that Alternative 11 was not viable. Therefore, the findings do not change from the prior agenda report, and staff recommends that the subject location along with T-Mobile's proposed mitigations is the least intrusive means to provide improved cell service in the coverage gap.

Proposed Mitigations at Subject Site:

1. T-Mobile will replace the existing utility pole at their expense with a new pole in the same location installed by Pasadena Water and Power.
2. Rotating and flush mounting the riser assembly and eliminating the global positioning system unit to reduce the visual impact.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) is the agency responsible for regulating radio frequency (RF) emissions to ensure public safety. As such, the FCC determines the operating parameters and thresholds for use, whereas PMC 12.22 specifies the means in which telecommunications facilities in the public right-of-way may be processed and permitted.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

This project has been determined to be Statutorily Exempt from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act, Administrative Code, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15268, Ministerial Projects. The application for the installation of the antenna and related equipment is a ministerial project. Per Section 15268 ministerial projects are exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The applicant has submitted a deposit to cover all costs to process the application. The project is subject to applicable construction permit fees, which is estimated at \$850. The applicant is also responsible for the replacement cost of the existing wood utility pole estimated at \$5,000 and the actual cost of electric usage payable to the Department of Water and Power.

Respectfully submitted,



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Director of Public Works

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Approved by:



for MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attachments:

- A – Photo of Alternative 11
- B – Excerpt from original project proposal
- C – Aerial photo of site