

**Neighborhood Meeting on
Proposed T-Mobile Wireless Antenna
Grand and California
July 18, 2011, 8:15 a.m.**

Attachment B

Residents of the West Pasadena area met with representatives from the City of Pasadena Planning Department (Dan Rix, City Engineer and Richard Yee, Principal Engineer) and T-Mobile (Linda Paul, Zoning and Government Affairs Manager and others) on the corner of Grand Avenue and California Boulevard in Pasadena. Present were: West Pasadena Residents' Association members; an Oak Knoll neighborhood resident; and Grand Avenue and West California Boulevard homeowners.

The meeting purpose was to: 1) View the approved location for a wireless antenna on a guide pole at Grand and California; and 2) Walk through the neighborhood within a two or three block area to identify one or more alternate locations for evaluation.

Background

Mr. Rix provided background:

- T-Mobile originally proposed a tower 9' high and 18" in diameter on the guide pole at California and Grand. Mr. Rix responded to T-Mobile requiring that the diameter could be no greater than the top of the pole and no more than 7' high.
- Initially, T-Mobile wanted to replace the guide pole with a thicker pole, and City officials said "no." The guide pole was replaced in 2003. The antenna and riser will be painted brown to match the pole and the vault lid will be concrete so it is the same surface as the sidewalk.
- According to Pasadena City ordinance, T-Mobile must use an existing pole as an antenna base and cannot put in a new pole in the public right-of-way. There must be a certain distance between the high voltage lines at the top and the cell phone antenna.
- Existing poles in the area are mostly utility poles and street lights. The "post top" street lights in the area are too short so an antenna would have to be located on a high mast street light.
- T-Mobile does not put antennas at signal intersections because of liability issues related to power outages—losing power or a signal outage could cause an accident.
- The City cannot tell T-Mobile that it doesn't want a wireless antenna installation—only where the antenna can be placed. Mr. Rix asked T-Mobile to look more closely for alternative locations on California and Orange Grove or along the Arroyo. At that time, T-Mobile was unable to find a location along Arroyo.

Other Issues

Mr. Rix provided additional information:

- T-Mobile must add landscaping adjacent to the pole and antenna in the public right-of-way if requested.
- Pasadena gets an annual fee for power usage, but not a lease since the pole is owned by the Joint Pole Association (JPA).
- California Boulevard utility poles are to be undergrounded sometime during the next 30 years. At that time the antenna would need to be relocated or removed.

(Over)

- An antenna agreement with T-Mobile is for 10 years; T-Mobile would have to reapply for renewal after 10 years but a public hearing is not required.
- T-Mobile does not conduct on-site radiofrequency (RF) readings as they are able to determine radiation emissions from calculations. The City of Pasadena will conduct its own on-site readings.

La Loma Road and California as Option for Antenna

Moving to La Loma Road and California, the group discussion continued:

- Two corners at La Loma Road and California could possibly be an antenna location; however, children live in at least one of the houses.
- Pasadena City ordinance requires that installations be located on corners and in front of side yards, not front yards, making the North side of California at La Loma Road less desirable as an antenna location.
- Viable antenna locations that require a change to the City ordinance should be included in the report to the City Council with that caveat.

Coverage

Mr. Rix and Ms. Paul shared additional information on coverage:

- The approved guide pole would only accommodate a T-Mobile antenna, not other carriers.
- The proposed antenna location is in the center of a long and narrow dead zone for T-Mobile cell service.
- T-Mobile representatives estimate that the Orange Grove and California intersection is too far away to provide service to the cell coverage dead zone along Arroyo.

T-Mobile Representatives

Ms. Paul and T-Mobile representatives stated:

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate is to provide service, even if T-Mobile does not currently have customers in that area. Radiation emissions are minimal and well within the FCC requirements.
- It will be very difficult to find an alternative location to Grand and California, but T-Mobile will look and run an analysis.
- There is likely no alternative location due to the topography and interference from trees and houses.
- Locating the antenna on California, immediately around the corner from Grand is possible, but would require a waiver of certain requirements of Pasadena's municipal code. The proposed permit between the City and T-Mobile is revocable if anything changes.

Next Steps

A community meeting will be held on July 27 at 6:30 p.m., possibly at La Casita del Arroyo Clubhouse. Postcards with a picture of the simulated antenna will be mailed out to at least a 1,000-foot radius.