



City of Gilroy

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Kristi Abrams, Director

Planning	(408) 846-0440	FAX (408) 846-0429
Building Life & Environmental Safety Division	(408) 846-0451	FAX (408) 846-0429
Housing & Community Development	(408) 846-0290	FAX (408) 846-0429

Architecture and Site Design Standards for Wireless Telecommunications Facilities in Public Right-of-Way

Approved by City Council – December 10, 2012

Applicability

This policy applies to distributed, repeater or microcell antenna wireless communication systems and facilities that are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and determined to be exempt from Section 35 Wireless Telecommunications Facilities, Antennas and Windmills of the City of Gilroy Zoning Ordinance. The standards apply to such systems located on street lights and utility poles in the public right-of-way (ROW).

These standards address the site and architectural design of the DAS network facilities administered by the Community Development Department. They do not address the engineering requirements administered by the Public Works Department.

Location.

1. Antenna systems are encouraged along minor streets and alleys. Locations along major arterial and collector streets are discouraged and shall only be considered based upon verification by a qualified electrical engineer licensed by the State of California that use of arterial or collector streets is necessary to obtain capacity and coverage.
2. Due to their lower height and reduced aesthetic impact, antenna systems shall be installed on street light poles and utilize underground utilities, whenever feasible. Use of utility poles and aerial cable shall only be used in areas where utility poles are existing and in situations where use of street lights is not feasible.

Height

3. The following maximum height requirements shall apply unless determined otherwise by the Planning Director based on technical information that justifies a greater height.
 - A. New antennas are allowed on street lights at a height not to exceed 57'-0" feet above the top of the existing pole.
 - B. Antennas are permitted on utility poles at a height not to exceed 15 feet above the height of the existing wires or other existing equipment (measured to the top of the antenna). Replacement utility poles are allowed in accordance with the Municipal Code; however, no net new utility poles are allowed in the public ROW.

- C. The height of all antennas shall be the minimum necessary to meet the system requirements based on the best available technology. Applicants shall provide specific information to demonstrate that this requirement has been met.

Equipment Location, Type and Design

4. For street lights, all equipment shall be enclosed within the street light pole or placed underground, unless it is demonstrated to be technically infeasible. Any equipment required to be above ground shall be painted to blend into the surrounding area or included in the Gilroy Graffiti Prevention Program Utility Box Art program, to be determined by the Planning Director. Such equipment shall be located in a manner that blends into the surrounding area and shall be approved by the Director of Planning
5. For utility poles, all equipment, including switches, computers, cooling, back-up power, etc. shall be mounted to the utility pole and shall be painted to match the color of the utility pole.
6. All antennas and associated support structures shall be housed within a radome or other equivalent stealth design to obscure their visibility and blend with the existing pole and equipment to the maximum extent feasible. Such equipment shall be of the minimum necessary size.

Public Review Process.

7. California Public Utilities Code Section 7901.1 grants local municipalities the right to exercise reasonable controls as to the time, place and manner in which wireless telecommunications facilities are installed within public ROW. The City's review of the time, place and manner of a proposed antenna installation shall be subject to an administrative Architecture and Site Approval. The information identified in Section 35.16 Minimum Application Requirements shall be included in any such Architecture and Site approval application, unless deemed otherwise by the Planning Director. The requirements contained in Gilroy Zoning Code Section 35 shall be used as general guidelines for the review of proposed projects.

Right-of-Way Agreement

8. Antennas proposed for installation on street light poles shall require the approval of a Right-of-Way Agreement by the City Council. Such agreement shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - A. Lease rate provisions or equivalent compensation for the requested use of public facilities by the proposed project;
 - B. Provision for the applicant to pay their fair share of the cost of undergrounding any overhead utility wires when other utilities on the same poles are placed underground in the future;
 - C. Any other provisions that the City Council deems applicable to the proposed antenna installations.