



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: MAY 3, 2016**

**FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** **WARD: 3**  
**DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT: PLANNING CASES P15-0896 AND P15-1040 – PROPOSAL BY DAIL RICHARD, SAC WIRELESS ON BEHALF OF VERIZON WIRELESS – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AND VARIANCE TO CONSTRUCT A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY – 2013 WASHINGTON STREET**

## **ISSUE:**

The issue for City Council consideration is a request from Dail Richard of SAC Wireless on behalf of Verizon Wireless for a Conditional Use Permit and height Variance for a new 43-foot high wireless telecommunications facility camouflaged as a streetlight pole, and related equipment enclosure, located in the public right-of-way.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

1. Determine that Planning Cases P15-0896 (Conditional Use) Permit and P15-1040 (Variance) will not have a significant effect on the environment based on the findings set forth in the case record and recommend the City Council exempt this project subject to Sections 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction) and 15311 (Accessory Structures) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
2. Approve Planning Cases P15-0896 and P15-1040 based on and subject to the Planning Commission findings and recommended conditions found in the attached staff report.

## **STAFF/PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff recommended approval to the Planning Commission, subject to recommended conditions of approval. On March 17, 2016, the City Planning Commission recommended approval of Planning Cases P15-0896 and P15-1040 by a vote of 7 ayes, 0 noes and 0 abstentions, subject to staff's recommended conditions.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The applicant requests approval of a Conditional Use Permit and Variance application for a 43-foot high wireless telecommunications facility in the public right-of-way, camouflaged as a streetlight pole, where 35-feet is the maximum permitted height.

The project involves construction of a 43-foot high wireless telecommunications facility, camouflaged as a streetlight pole. The project site is generally located on the east side of Washington Street, north of Overlook Parkway, within a public multi-purpose trail.

The proposed wireless telecommunications facility will consist of three (3) antennas, approximately five (5) feet in height, located within an 8-foot tall enclosure on top of a streetlight pole. The proposal also includes the installation of an approximately 280 square foot equipment enclosure in a subterranean equipment vault, within the existing landscape area. Additionally a 48 square foot enclosure for a wireless fiber pull box, will be located at grade, south of the equipment vault. Three sides of the wireless fiber pull box will be enclosed with a split face CMU wall, approximately 2-feet 2-inches in height.

Staff supports the requested height variance, as a 35-foot high streetlight pole exists and the addition of the 8-foot tall enclosure on top of the streetlight pole will not substantially impact the street scape or any sensitive view shed. Furthermore, there are existing palm trees along this section of Washington Street, approximately 50-feet in height, spaced at 50-foot intervals.

Please refer to the March 17, 2016 City Planning Commission staff report, recommended conditions and draft minutes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no impact to the General Fund, since all project costs are borne by the applicant.

Prepared by: Rafael Guzman, Community & Economic Development Director  
Certified as to  
availability of funds: Scott Miller, Interim Finance Director/Treasurer  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

**Attachments:**

1. City Planning Commission Recommended Conditions
2. City Planning Commission Report – March 17, 2016
3. City Planning Commission Draft Minutes – March 17, 2016