



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: JUNE 7, 2016**

FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **WARD: 2**
DEPARTMENT

**SUBJECT: PLANNING CASE P15-0945 (CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT) – TO PERMIT
A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AND RELATED
EQUIPMENT – 725 CENTRAL AVENUE**

ISSUE:

The issue for City Council consideration is a proposal by Andrea Urbas of Cortel, Inc., on behalf of Verizon Wireless, for a Conditional Use Permit to permit a 60 foot high wireless telecommunications facility, disguised as a pine tree, and related equipment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Determine the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment based upon the findings set forth in the case record and exempt this project subject to Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) of the California Environmental Quality Act; and
2. Approve Planning Case P15-0945 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 May 5, 2016, the City Planning Commission recommended approval of Planning Case P15-0945 by a vote of 7 ayes, 0 noes and 0 abstentions, with a modification to staff recommended conditions requiring the equipment wall enclosure to match the existing Fire Station screen wall.

BACKGROUND:

The applicant proposes to construct a 60-foot high wireless telecommunications facility, disguised as a pine tree. The project site a 1.65-acre property is developed with City Fire Station No. 14, and is located in the PF – Public Facilities Zone, generally located on the southeast portion of the property developed with the City's Fire Station No. 14, behind an existing security wall and gate.

The wireless facility will consist of a single antenna array installed at a centerline height of 54 feet. Antennas will be attached to three separate sectors, each sector will be able to hold up to four, 8-foot high antennas, for a total of 12 antennas. The wireless facility also includes the installation of a parabolic antenna at a centerline height of 47 feet, 8 inches. The pole of the telecommunications facility will consist of a faux bark finish to resemble the texture and color of a pine tree trunk. Faux branches and leaves are proposed to extend beyond the antenna arrays to camouflage the antennas. All appurtenances will be painted to match the proposed pine tree and antennas will be covered in 'antenna socks', which serve to further camouflage the antennas.

A 571-square foot equipment enclosure with an 8-foot high block wall will contain the telecommunications facility and supporting equipment, cabinets and cables. Two trees will be removed as part of the project and replaced with three new pine trees to provide additional screening from the public right-of-way.

Staff believes the proposed use will be compatible with the specific site location, development, and operation standards related to wireless telecommunications facilities. The facility will not be detrimental to the surrounding neighborhood or the general public with fulfillment of the recommended conditions of approval.

For additional information, please refer to the May 5, 2016, City Planning Commission staff report (Attachments 2 and 3), recommended conditions (Attachment 1) and draft minutes (Attachment 4).

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 G. 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 – May 5, 2016
3. City Planning Commission Exhibits – May 5, 2016
4. City Planning Commission Draft Minutes