



CITY OF CARSON

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION: April 24, 2018
SUBJECT: Workshop on Wireless Communications Facilities
APPLICANT: City of Carson
REQUEST: Discuss of legal constraints and best practices for wireless communications facilities
PROPERTIES INVOLVED: Citywide

COMMISSION ACTION

- Concurred with staff
- Did not concur with staff
- Other

COMMISSIONERS' VOTE

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NO</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NO</u>	
		Chairman			Guidry
		Vice-Chairman Pimentel			Mitoma
		Andrews			Nunley
		Cainglet			Thomas
		Fe'esago, Jr.			

Item No. 8A

I. Introduction

Applications for Wireless Communications Facilities are governed by the Carson Municipal Code. The Planning Division is responsible for processing applications for wireless communications facilities and working directly with the Planning Commission and City Council regarding review and consideration of the applications.

To assist with the review of applications, the City recently approved an agreement with Telecom Law Firm (Telecom). Telecom represents a number of public and private sector clients on regulatory matters regarding wireless siting.

This workshop is intended to provide the Planning Commission with a foundation on which to consider development standards and regulations for future wireless communications facilities.

II. Background

A number of federal and state laws regulate wireless communications facilities including the Telecommunications Act, Middle Class Tax Relief Act, and FCC regulations. These laws provide direction on the placement and construction of facilities, application processing times, and frequency emissions safety standards. The Carson Municipal Code establishes rules for the siting and design of wireless communications facilities.

Types of Wireless Facilities

The most common types of wireless facilities are macro cell facilities and small cell facilities. Macro cell facilities are those located on monopoles, towers, utility poles, or other non-habitable structures. Freestanding facilities can be disguised as trees, flagpoles, light fixtures or other structures. Most of these facilities are constructed on private property.

Small cells are low-powered antennas that have a range of 30 to 6,000 feet. Small refers to the area covered, not to the size of the facility. This term also includes a number of devices - ex. picocells, femtocells and microcells. Many of these facilities are constructed in public-rights-of-way.

Increased Demand for Wireless Facilities

The demand for wireless broadband service to accommodate new smartphones, digital tablets, laptops and other mobile devices has increased significantly in recent years. In 2017, an estimated 400 million mobile devices connected to the cellular network in North America (Ericsson Mobility Report). In addition, the number of wireless subscribers connections in the U.S. has increased in the last eight years from 23 million in 2009 to 355 million in 2017 (CTIA). In response, wireless facilities are continuously upgraded and expanded to accommodate this increasing demand. According to S&P Global Market Intelligence, between 100,000 and 150,000 Distributed Antennas Systems and small cell facilities will be constructed by the end of 2018.

III. Recommendation

That the Planning Commission:

- CONSIDER and DISCUSS the information provided for in this workshop; and
- RECEIVE and FILE

Prepared by:
McKina Alexander, Associate Planner