



City of Santa Barbara

Community Development and Public Works Department

DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR SMALL CELL FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

- (A) **Facility Installation Types.** All proposals for new Small Cell Facilities (SCF) and substantial changes to existing SCF within the public right-of-way (PROW) shall be identified as one of the following types, which are ordered by preference:
- (1) Locations on existing streetlights; then
 - (2) Collocations on wooden utility poles developed with existing wireless facilities; then
 - (3) Locations for new SCF on existing wooden utility poles currently not developed with wireless facilities; then
 - (4) New purpose-built SCF poles; then
 - (5) Strand mounted SCF.
- (B) **Prohibited Support Structures.** The City prohibits SCF to be installed on the following support structures within the PROW:
- (1) Decorative Corridor streetlights along State Street, Carrillo Street, Chapala Street, Milpas Street, Loma Alta, Lausen Road, Paterna Road, Alameda Padre Serra, Cabrillo Boulevard, Garden Street;
 - (2) Signs, poles, cabinets and related devices;
 - (3) New (non-replacement) wood poles.
- (C) **Location.** All applicants shall propose new SCF and substantial changes to existing SCF within the PROW with locations according to the following:
- (1) **Outside Pedestrian Path of Travel.** New SCF and all associated equipment shall not incommode the PROW.
 - (2) **Outside the Visibility Triangle for Intersections and Driveways.** To enhance pedestrian and vehicle safety, new equipment installed as part of a SCF project shall observe the development standards established in SBMC§30.140.230, Visibility at Driveways and Intersections.
 - (3) **Purpose-Built SCF Pole.** New poles shall be located no closer than 10 feet to the next nearest streetlight, utility pole, or purpose-built SCF pole.
- (D) **Accessory Equipment.** Proposed equipment necessary for operation of a SCF shall be identified as either above ground, underground or pole-mounted.
- (1) **Above Ground Accessory Equipment.** All above ground accessory equipment shall be installed per City standards, Caltrans specifications and appropriate governing agencies specific to the installation. Cabinets and related above ground devices shall be painted "Frazee Malaga Green" or powder coated matching Classic RAL System, RAL 6012 "Black Green". Above ground accessory equipment is discouraged and not allowed on State Street, Cabrillo Boulevard, within the El Pueblo Viejo Historic District (HLC), where incommodes the PROW, or creates visibility issues. In those cases, underground accessory equipment must be installed.

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- (2) **Underground Accessory Equipment.** All underground accessory equipment must be installed in an environmentally controlled vault that is load-rated to meet the City's standards and specifications. Underground vaults located beneath a sidewalk must be constructed with a slip-resistant cover. Vents for airflow shall be flush-to-grade when placed within the sidewalk and may not exceed two feet above grade when placed off the sidewalk. Applicants shall not be permitted to install an underground vault in a location that would cause any existing tree to be materially damaged or displaced.
 - (3) **Pole Mounted Accessory Equipment.** All pole-mounted accessory equipment must be installed in a single equipment shroud unless the applicant demonstrates that a single shroud would be technically infeasible as supported by clear and convincing evidence on the application. All pole-mounted accessory equipment must be installed flush to the pole to minimize the overall visual profile. If any applicable health and safety regulations prohibit flush-mounted equipment, the maximum separation permitted between the accessory equipment and the pole shall be the minimum separation required by such regulations. All pole-mounted equipment and required or permitted signage must be placed and oriented away from public view. Pole-mounted equipment may be installed behind street, traffic or other signs to the extent that the installation complies with applicable public health and safety regulations. All cables, wires and other connectors must be routed through conduits within the pole, and all conduit attachments, cables, wires and other connectors must be concealed from public view. To the extent that cables, wires and other connectors cannot be routed through the pole, applicants shall route them through a single external conduit or shroud that has been finished to match the underlying support structure.
- (E) **Design and Aesthetic Standards.** All facilities must conform to the standards as follows:
- (1) **Existing Streetlights.** Applicants who propose to install small wireless facilities on an existing City streetlight shall, if necessary or as determined by City staff, remove and replace the existing streetlight with one substantially similar to and which meets the City's standards and specifications but designed to accommodate wireless antennas and accessory equipment. To mitigate any material changes in the street lighting patterns, the replacement pole shall:
 - (A) be located the same as the removed pole;
 - (B) be aligned with the other existing streetlights and/or as determined by the City Engineer; and
 - (C) include a luminaire at substantially the same height from finished surface and distance from the pole as the luminaire on the removed pole.
 - (a) **Concealment.** Small Wireless Antennas (SWAs) shall be top-mounted, centered to the pole, and housed within the radome with a decorative cap and base plate previously approved for El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District (EPV) in order to blend in with the underlying streetlight to the extent possible.
 - (b) **Size.** Maximum size for a single SWA and radome is 24 inches with a 10 inch diameter.
 - (c) **Other Equipment.** Remote Relay Units and other equipment required for the operation of the facility shall be the minimum number and size required, and preferably located within an underground vault or pole-mounted beneath the radome.
 - (d) **Color.** The radome and associated equipment shall be painted to match the base color of the pole material it immediately touches.
 - (e) **Number.** One SWA per streetlight maximum.
 - (f) **City Streetlight Style & Location** – Please refer to the map on the [City Public Works Department website](#) for guidance on the different types of streetlights. Please

reference City Standard Details, consult with City staff, and vendors as needed to make final determination.

(2) **Purpose-Built Small Wireless Facility Poles.**

- (a) **Pole.** Purpose built SCF poles shall match the designated streetlight for that street in material, color, height, and dimensions.
- (b) **Concealment.** SWAs shall be centered to the pole, and housed within a radome with a decorative cap and base plate previously approved for EPV in order to blend in with the underlying streetlight to the extent possible.
- (c) **Radome Size.** Maximum size for a single SWA and radome is 24 inches with a 10 inch diameter.
- (d) **Other Equipment.** RRUs and other equipment required for the operation of the facility shall be the minimum number and size required, and preferably located within an underground vault or pole-mounted beneath the radome(s).
- (e) **Color.** The radome and associated equipment shall be painted to match the base color of the pole material it immediately touches.
- (f) **Number.** Two per purpose-built pole maximum. Radome configuration shall exhibit a bilateral symmetry centered to the pole, perpendicular to the street, and SWAs shall be the minimum distance from one another for the operation and maintenance of the facility not to exceed three feet.

(3) **Wooden Utility Poles.** Applicants who propose to install SCF on an existing wood utility pole must install all antennas in a side-mounted orientation on a stand-off bracket or extension arm and must be concealed within a shroud. Top-mounted orientations will only be approved if the applicant demonstrates that a side-mounted configuration would be technically infeasible as supported by clear and convincing evidence in the application. Applicants who propose to install SCF on a replacement wood utility pole must remove and replace the existing wood utility pole with one that is substantially similar in height and diameter, unless the applicant demonstrates that a substantially similar replacement pole would be technically infeasible as supported by clear and convincing evidence in the application.

- (a) **Orientation.** If top-mounted, SWAs shall be centered to the pole. If side-mounted or wire-mounted, the antenna shall be the minimum clearance from the pole required for the operation and maintenance of the facility.
- (b) **Concealment.** The antenna shall be housed within a basic radome to blend in with other equipment to the extent possible. All cables, wires, and other connectors must be concealed within the side-arm mount or extension arm.
- (c) **Size.** Maximum size for a single SWA and radome is 24 inches with a 10 inch diameter.
- (d) **Other Equipment.** RRUs and other equipment required for the operation of the facility shall be the minimum number and size required, and pole-mounted beneath the radome if the SWA is top-mounted, and on the same mounting arm if the SWA is side-mounted.
- (e) **Color.** The radome and associated equipment shall be painted to match the base color of the pole.
- (f) **Number.** There is no maximum number of units on wooden utility poles.

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- (4) **Landscaping.** New landscaping to replace any existing landscaping displaced during the construction or installation of the facility is required. Low maintenance groundcover may be required when a facility is proposed in a previously un-vegetated parkway per Santa Barbara Municipal Code §15.20.
- (5) **Signage; Advertising.** No facility may display any signage or advertisements unless expressly allowed by the City in a written approval, recommended under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations, or required by law or permit condition. Every facility shall, at all times, display signage that accurately identifies the facility owner and provides the facility owner's unique site number, and also provides a local or toll-free telephone number to contact the facility owner's operations center.

(F) **Additional Requirements.**

- (1) **Backup or Standby Power Sources and Generators.** The City may not approve any fossil fuel-powered backup power sources or generators unless the applicant demonstrates that the facility cannot feasibly achieve its power needs with batteries, fuel cells or other similarly non-polluting, low noise-level means.
- (2) **Noise.** All transmission equipment and other equipment (including those without limitation air conditioners and sump pumps) associated with the facility must not emit sound that exceeds the applicable limit established in Santa Barbara Municipal Code §9.16.
- (3) **Lights.** Small wireless facilities shall not include any lights that would be visible from publicly accessible areas, except as may be required under Federal Aviation Administration, FCC, or other applicable regulations for health and safety. All equipment with lights (such as indicator or status lights) must be installed in locations and within enclosures that mitigate illumination impacts visible from publicly accessible areas. The provisions in this subsection shall not be interpreted or applied to prohibit installations on streetlights or luminaires installed on new or replacement poles as may be required under this Policy.
- (4) **Obstructions; Public Safety.** SCF and any associated equipment or improvements shall not physically interfere with or impede: (A) worker access to any above-ground or underground infrastructure for traffic control, streetlight or public transportation, including without limitation any curb control sign, parking meter, vehicular traffic sign or signal, pedestrian traffic sign or signal, or barricade reflectors; (B) access to any public transportation vehicles, shelters, street furniture or other improvements at any public transportation stop; (C) worker access to above-ground or underground infrastructure owned or operated by any public or private utility agency; (D) access to any fire hydrant or water valve; (E) access to any doors, gates, sidewalk doors, passage doors, stoops or other ingress and egress points to any building appurtenant to the rights-of-way; or (F) access to any fire escape.
- (5) **Utility Connections.** All cables and connectors for telephone, data backhaul, primary electric and other similar utilities must be routed underground in conduits large enough to accommodate future collocated wireless facilities. Undergrounded cables and wires must transition directly into the pole base without any external doghouse. All cables, wires and connectors between the underground conduits and the antennas and other accessory equipment shall be routed through and concealed from view within: (A) internal risers or conduits if on a concrete, composite, or similar pole; or (B) a cable shroud or conduit mounted as flush to the pole as possible if on a wood pole or other pole without internal cable space. The Community Development Director shall not approve new overhead utility lines or service drops merely because compliance with the undergrounding requirements would increase the project cost.

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- (6) **Spools and Coils.** To reduce clutter and deter vandalism, excess fiber optic or coaxial cables shall not be spooled, coiled or otherwise stored on the pole outside equipment cabinets or shrouds.
- (7) **Electric Meters.** Small wireless facilities shall use flat-rate electric service or other method that obviates the need for a separate above-grade electric meter. If flat-rate service is not available, applicants may install a ground-mounted electric meter pedestal. The Community Development Director shall not approve a separate ground-mounted electric meter pedestal unless all other options are technically infeasible and the proposed pedestal will be off any sidewalk areas and within a suitable parkway.
- (8) **Code Compliance.** Applicant shall design and maintain all facilities in compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, codes, regulations, ordinances, or other rules.