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MOTION

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT  
INFORMATION TECH & GENERAL SVCS.  
APR 21 2009

Section 63.03.2 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) regulates the procedures relative to the installation and maintenance of Above Ground Facilities (AGF). As defined in the Municipal Code, AGF installations include "all structures, cabinets, electric meters and any other appurtenance installed for telecommunication or utility purposes above the surrounding grade in the public rights-of-way."

In an effort to reduce the number of new AGF installations that are built above the surrounding grade, LAMC Section 63.03.2 (IX)(E) exempts pole-mounted facilities from the AGF permitting process.


However, some telecommunications companies have installed pole-mounted facilities in a manner that presents a safety hazard and interferes or obstructs the free passage of pedestrians on sidewalks as a shortcut to reduce time and avoid costs. In addition, the placement of these facilities presents a source of blight due to graffiti and other forms of defacement (i.e. posters, stickers, scratches).

Recently, it was brought to the attention of the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) that one telecommunications company in particular is pole-mounting their facilities three (3) feet above the surrounding grade on utility poles in the public rights-of-way. When a utility pole is completely surrounded by a pedestrian sidewalk, it poses a serious safety hazard to pedestrians; where the pole is located next to the sidewalk in dirt or landscaped parkway, it would present less of a hazard to pedestrians.

The City should explore the feasibility of requiring telecommunications or utility companies to place their pole-mounted facilities at least ten (10) feet above the surrounding grade where the utility pole is surrounded by a pedestrian sidewalk. Alternatively, if the proposed facility is pole-mounted on a utility pole next to the sidewalk in dirt or landscaped parkway in the public right-of-way, the telecommunications or utility company should be required to go through the regular permitting process.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), with assistance from the City Attorney, be instructed to review the feasibility of amending Section 63.03.2 of the Above Ground Facilities (AGF) Ordinance to require that either all telecommunication pole-mounted facilities are to be installed ten (10) feet above the surrounding grade, or the telecommunications/utility company must go through the AGF permit process.

PRESENTED BY:

  
GREG SMITH  
Councilmember, 12<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



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