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CITY OF LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA



Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

GRANADA HILLS NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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December 1 , 2009

Los Angeles City Council
Council Public Works Committee
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE:Council File no. 09-2645

Honorable Councilmembers,

The Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC) was certified by the City of Los Angeles on September 10, 2002, and has had a duly elected and installed Board of Directors since March 31, 2003. The area it represents and services is bounded by the Los Angeles City/County line and I-5 (Golden State Freeway) to the north, the 405 (San Diego Freeway) to the east, the 118 (Ronald Reagan Freeway) to the south, and to Aliso Canyon in the west. It is composed of 3 districts. District 1 - Sunshine Canyon Landfill, District 2 - DWP/MWD, and District 3 – All Residential Areas to the south encompassing approximately 28,600 stakeholders.

Though the GHNNC has had some success in the siting and appearance of wireless facilities it is often a battle all the way through the process. We are constantly told that we can not prevent a company from installing a new site. Recent court rulings have determined that municipalities do have legal authority to regulate the aesthetics of wireless sites. The City needs to draft a new ordinance that would regulate wireless sites and offer guidelines that we can use to make recommendations.

On November 30, 2009 on the recommendation of the GHNNC Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee the GHNNC Board requests that:

1. The City immediately impose a moratorium on all wireless telecommunications facility installations in the City and/or applications for approval of such installations in the City.
2. The City continue to review the City's current regulatory scheme and report to the City Council on what new tools are available to regulate wireless telecommunications facilities in light of recent judicial determinations clarifying the City's ability to regulate such facilities on aesthetic grounds, as directed by the motion introduced by Councilmember Rosendahl on October 27, 2009 (Council File No. 09-2645).

3. In connection with the above review, the City Attorney continues to research the extent of the City's involvement in the Joint Pole Agreement and whether, and to what extent, it has authority to regulate wireless telecommunications facility installations involving utility poles and replacement poles notwithstanding the Joint Pole Agreement's provisions.
4. The City immediately establish a task force composed of appropriate city departments and representatives for neighborhood councils to develop a City policy on the siting of telecommunications facilities.
5. With the City Attorney's guidance and consistent with his recommendations, the City enact a comprehensive new ordinance with clear and consistent standards and procedures regulating all wireless telecommunications facilities in the City, authorizing regulation of aesthetics and providing protection to communities and residential neighborhoods to the full extent of the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Ziliak".

Leon Marzillier
President, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Anne Ziliak
Vice President, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council