

1 [Urging the State and Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Consider Pedestrian Safety and
2 Neighborhood Character When Drafting Rules and Regulations for Wireless Facilities]

3 **Resolution urging the California Public Utilities Commission, the State Legislature, and**
4 **Pacific Gas and Electric Company to consider pedestrian safety and neighborhood**
5 **character when drafting rules and regulations for wireless facilities.**

6
7 WHEREAS, San Francisco's aesthetic beauty, high level of walkability, and general
8 urban character are vital to the City's tourist industry and are a primary reason why
9 businesses and residents choose to locate here; and

10 WHEREAS, The City's resident, business, and tourist communities drive demand for
11 wireless services; and

12 WHEREAS, The City and wireless carriers face a challenge of integrating the
13 infrastructure needed for wireless service in a manner which does not detract from the City's
14 beauty or adversely impact pedestrian safety; and

15 WHEREAS, Wireless carriers have the ability to use various types of designs to create
16 networks which feature a combination of macros (panel antennas hidden in fake vent pipes on
17 building rooftops), micros (single panel antenna hidden on rooftops or in building signage),
18 small cells (antennas affixed to City owned light and transit poles), and Distributed Antenna
19 Systems ("DAS") which feature antennas and boxes attached to non-City owned wooden
20 utility and wooden streetlight poles; and

21 WHEREAS, The City features over 300 DAS facilities which vary greatly in size from
22 those with a slender unobtrusive antenna profile and two to three modest equipment
23 enclosures (hereinafter "DAS R"); to those with multiple panel antennas rising well into view
24 above a neighborhood, and three to four bulky equipment enclosures (hereinafter "DAS XL");
25 and

1 WHEREAS, A typical well-designed and scale-appropriate macro site on a building
2 rooftop can provide equivalent coverage and capacity (data usage) as four to twelve pole-
3 mounted DAS facilities while avoiding placement of elements within the right-of-way, where in
4 San Francisco sidewalks are often narrow and setbacks are often non-existent; and

5 WHEREAS, DAS facilities, particularly those considered “XL,” can generate a host of
6 negative effects including concerns over structural loading on wood poles, the use of noise
7 generating fans for larger equipment cabinets that may be only a few feet away from a
8 bedroom bay window, the potential for bulky cabinet enclosures to impair light, air, and view
9 for nearby residents, and the cumulative negative effect such facilities may have on historic
10 residential streetscapes when up to four wireless carriers choose to site near each other; and

11 WHEREAS, Current and proposed rules that may be under review by the California
12 Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), along with existing Pacific Gas and Electric Company
13 standards present challenges that could result in DAS systems that are more physically and
14 visually obtrusive than technologically needed for robust wireless coverage, including potential
15 mandates that would result in the following negative outcomes: new sidewalk mounted
16 facilities the size of refrigerators; meter pedestals on sidewalks; wider pole-mounted boxes for
17 larger electric meters; and replacement poles up to 20 feet higher than an existing pole; and

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco, as an urban environment, has different and more intense
19 demands on its sidewalks and rights of ways; including a high level of pedestrian traffic; and

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco has one of the highest pedestrian injury rates in the State
21 and the city is committed to and has an interest in improving this statistic; and

22 WHEREAS, Sidewalk elements, such as surface utilities mounted on sidewalks both
23 limit pedestrian circulation and obscure visibility of pedestrians, which is a primary cause of
24 vehicular-pedestrian collisions; and

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco has recently seen substantial deployment of more
2 comparatively desirable and scale-appropriate micro or macro antennas on buildings and has
3 decreased the time required to process an application for rooftop antennas; now, therefore, be
4 it

5 RESOLVED, That San Francisco urges the California Public Utilities Commission and
6 Pacific Gas and Electric to adopt rules, regulations, and standards that minimize impacts on
7 pedestrian safety and aesthetic blight in urban environments by avoiding the need for DAS
8 facilities to feature large sidewalk mounted facilities and electric meters and substantial pole
9 height increases; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco urges Pacific Gas and Electric Company
11 to amend its rules in a format such as and Advice Letter so as to emulate more balanced
12 metering policies, such as those safely established by San Diego Gas and Electric, so that a
13 “line drop(s)” can be utilized, thereby negating the need for a wide electric meter enclosure to
14 be added to a DAS facility; whether at the bottom of a pole, or on a new ground mounted
15 enclosure; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco urges the State legislature to take into
17 account the need to balance the impacts wireless infrastructure may have on urban
18 communities and ensure State laws which govern the right of way have the effect of allowing
19 local cities to work with carriers to seek less intrusive means of providing competitive
20 coverage and capacity; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco urges the State legislature to ensure that
22 local control in determining the best and least obtrusive citing for wireless and other utility
23 infrastructure is not limited as it considers bills such as AB 57 (Quirk); and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco encourages wireless providers to focus
25 on continued collaboration with the community and the Planning Department on well-designed

1 and scale-appropriate wireless facilities located in locations that do not adversely impact
2 pedestrian safety and aesthetic character.

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City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 150094

Date Passed: February 03, 2015


Resolution urging the California Public Utilities Commission, the State Legislature, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company to consider pedestrian safety and neighborhood character when drafting rules and regulations for wireless facilities.

February 03, 2015 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Christensen, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 150094

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 2/3/2015 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.




Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

UNSIGNED
Mayor

2/13/2015
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board