

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2010

2009-0782 - T-Mobile [Applicant] City of Sunnyvale: Application for a Use Permit to allow a second wireless telecommunications carrier including six panel antennas and one microwave dish on a new 100' tall monopole with associated ground equipment at the City Corporation Yard located at **221 Commercial Street** (near E. California Ave.) in an M-S (Industrial & Service) Zoning District (APN: 205-34-012) NC

Andrew Miner, Principal Planner, presented the staff report. He said updated site plans were provided to the Commission this evening. Mr. Miner discussed the modifications in the updated plans and said that staff recommends approval of the project subject to the conditions in Attachment B.

Comm. Rowe discussed with staff the need for future carriers to obtain separate permits to co-locate on the tower, the location of the antennas and microwave dish, and the "ice bridge" mentioned in the report. Staff explained that the updated site plans eliminate the need for the ice bridge as the coax cables would be on the ground. Comm. Rowe discussed with staff the screening for the ground equipment.

Comm. Klein discussed with staff, parking and the monopole location, with staff explaining that this location has not been used for parking and no parking spaces have been lost. Comm. Klein discussed with staff the distance between the antenna poles, the proposed utility rack to provide power to the ground equipment and pole, and options for screening the utility rack.

Comm. McKenna asked staff if the City derives any benefit from having the equipment on City property. Mr. Miner said yes, as the City would be the landlord for the property and that the rent is negotiated.

Comm. Hungerford asked staff about other poles on the site and why a monopine was not recommended. Staff explained that this is an industrial zone, that there are no other trees on the site, and a monopine would not look appropriate, aesthetically. Mr. Miner said that the applicant has done a good job to make the pole and equipment slim line.

Chair Chang opened the public hearing.

Dayna Aguirre, with Sutro Consulting representing T-Mobile, said they have worked with staff and altered the design slightly. She discussed the height of the poles, said the antennas would be vertically stacked which would utilize more

space on the pole, and that future carriers co-locating at this site would have to take more room on the pole due to the vertical stacking.

Chair Chang closed the public hearing.

Comm. Klein moved for Alternative 1, to approve the Use Permit with the attached conditions. Comm. Rowe seconded the motion.

Comm. Klein said this was an easy motion to make, that he was able to make the findings, and the issues have been worked out between the applicant and staff. He said this project is beneficial to the City providing additional resources and revenue and that the site is appropriate.

Comm. Rowe said that she was able to make the findings and the applicant has worked with the City and made the suggested compromises. Comm. Rowe commented that she was surprised to read in Attachment H that 40% of 911 calls are from mobile phones and is nice to have coverage in every possible area. She said she was glad to see this located at an industrial site, and that the design is compact.

Comm. Sulser said he was “on the fence” regarding this project as he thinks the aesthetic standards are set too low for industrial parks, however, he would be supporting the motion. He said a fake monopine is not feasible for this site, yet he wishes there were alternative designs available and that the City would start shooting higher aesthetically, than monopoles.

ACTION: Comm. Klein made a motion on 2009-0782 to approve the Use Permit with the attached conditions. Comm. Rowe seconded. Motion carried, 7-0.

APPEAL OPTIONS: This action is final unless appealed to City Council no later than March 23, 2010.