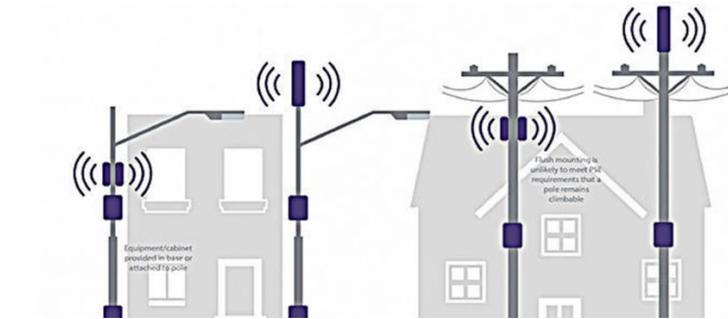


# TELECOMMUNICATION AND SMALL CELL DESIGN GUIDELINES LOCATED ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY AND IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY



Prepared by the City of Cotati  
Community Development Department

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## **TELECOMMUNICATION AND SMALL CELL DESIGN GUIDELINES LOCATED ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY AND IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

To guide the installation of telecommunication facilities and small cell wireless facilities by communication companies, consistent with adopted federal and State regulations, the City of Cotati has adopted design guidelines to provide the City's preferences regarding installation of these facilities on private and public property, and within the public right-of-way. Cities are bound by Federal and State laws to allow telecommunication and small cell installations; thus, Cotati's local regulations must abide by these laws when regulating at the local level.

### **PURPOSE AND INTENT**

These guidelines are intended to promote public health, safety and welfare, and balance the benefits of advanced wireless services with the City's local values, which include the aesthetic character of the City, its neighborhoods and the community.

These guidelines are also intended to reflect and promote community interest by: (1) protecting the City's visual character from potential adverse impacts or visual blight created or exacerbated by wireless communications infrastructure; and (2) promoting access to high-quality, advanced wireless services for the City's residents, businesses and visitors.

The City expects these guidelines to be used by communication companies to help them design and install facilities that meet the community's expectations to the maximum extent feasible. These guidelines supplement Chapter 17.44 (Telecommunication Facilities) and Chapter 11 (Streets and Sidewalks) of the Cotati Municipal Code.

### **Design Guidelines for Telecommunication Facilities located on private and public property and located outside of the public right-of-way:**

1. Telecommunication facilities should be located and designed to minimize their impact on the scenic qualities of Cotati.
2. Locate a telecommunication facility in a location that does not obstruct a scenic view, interrupt the natural topography or disrupt a public outdoor space.
3. Design a telecommunication facility to blend into the surrounding environment by integrating the telecommunication facility into common site features, such as a water tower, flagpole, steeple, or other concealing structure.
4. Screen the telecommunication facility with trees, and other vegetation to minimize the appearance within the natural landscape.
5. Where an enclosure or screening walls are incorporated, architecturally integrate them into the surrounding buildings.



**Design Guidelines for Wireless Communication Facilities located within the public right-of-way:**

1. The wireless facility should not be located directly in front of a residence or other habitable building and should be located to minimize view from adjacent properties and the public right-of-way. Examples of less intrusive locations include, but are not limited to the following:
  - A. Locations more than 50 feet from a street corner (except for facilities attached to traffic signals).
  - B. Locations next to shared property lines.
  - C. Locations more than 5 feet from the primary driveway of a residence.
  - D. Locations adjacent to trees or foliage that provide screening.
2. All equipment shall be neutral in color or match the color of the pole to which it is mounted and shall be minimized in size and shrouded to the maximum extent feasible.
3. The antenna and equipment shall be flush with the pole as much as possible and should not project away from the pole or be mounted on a side-arm.

4. All wiring, antenna and other Radio Frequency (or similar) telecommunication transmission sources shall be stealth designs, and/or incorporate transparent screening to minimize the visual and aesthetic impacts of such infrastructure.
5. Wires, brackets and other appurtenances shall be screened from view and not readily apparent from the public perspective.
6. Ground mounted equipment shall be located behind the sidewalk whenever possible, minimized in size, and screened with vegetation to the extent feasible.
7. Equipment shall be located underground to the greatest extent possible.
8. Communication providers are encouraged to participate in any utility box public art project sponsored by the City of Cotati or any other organization, and/or include City provided art.



