



DANVILLE
CALIFORNIA

Wireless Communication Facilities Design Guidelines

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Introduction

The wireless facilities design guidelines are intended to clarify the aesthetic and public safety goals and standards as provided in the Danville Wireless Communication Facilities Ordinance (DMC Chapter 32-70). In addition to the development standards in the DMC, all new wireless facilities and collocations, modifications, or other changes to existing wireless facilities that require a Land use Permit must conform to the design guidelines.

The guidelines prescribe clear, reasonable, and predictable criteria to assess and process applications in a consistent and expeditious manner. A degree of uniformity and consistency to conceal and minimize the visual impacts of the wireless communications facilities throughout Town maintains the aesthetic quality of the site and the surrounding area, to the extent feasible. Applications shall be reviewed based on the best siting, design, equipment, and construction methods and the smallest and least intrusive antennas, components and other necessary equipment available.

Checklists and handouts prepared by staff to facilitate implementation shall be consistent with these requirements.

Freestanding Wireless Facilities on Private Property

- a. **Tower-Mounted Equipment.** All tower-mounted equipment must be mounted as close to the vertical support structure as possible to reduce its overall visual profile. Applicants must mount non-antenna, tower-mounted equipment (including, but not limited to, remote radio units/heads, surge suppressors and utility demarcation boxes) directly behind the antennas to the maximum extent feasible. All tower-mounted equipment, cables and hardware shall have a non-reflective finish and shall be painted or otherwise treated to minimize visual impacts and blend with the existing environment.
- b. **Ground-Mounted Equipment; Shelters.** All ground-mounted equipment must be concealed underground or within an existing or new structure, opaque fences or other enclosures subject to the approval authority's prior approval. The approval authority may require additional concealment elements as the approval authority finds necessary to blend the ground-mounted equipment and other improvements into the natural and/or built environment.

Building Mounted Wireless Facilities on Private Property

- a. **Preferred Concealment Techniques.** All applicants should, to the extent feasible, propose new non-tower wireless facilities that are completely concealed and architecturally integrated into the existing facade or rooftop features with no visible impacts from any publicly accessible areas at ground level (examples include, but are not limited to, antennas behind existing parapet walls or facades replaced with RF-transparent material and finished to mimic the replaced materials). Alternatively, when integration with existing building features is not feasible, the applicant should propose completely concealed new structures or appurtenances designed to mimic the support structure's original architecture and proportions. Facilities must be located behind existing parapet walls or other existing screening elements to the maximum extent feasible.

Facade-Mounted Equipment. When wireless facilities cannot be placed behind existing parapet walls or other existing screening elements, the approval authority may approve facade-mounted equipment in accordance with this subsection. All facade-mounted equipment must be concealed behind screen walls and mounted as flush to the facade as practicable. The approval authority may not approve “pop-out” screen boxes unless the design is architecturally consistent with the original building or support structure. Except in manufacturing zones, the approval authority may not approve any exposed facade-mounted antennas, including but not limited to exposed antennas painted to match the facade. To the extent feasible, facade-mounted equipment must be installed on the facade(s) along the building frontage that is the least prominent or publicly visible.

- b. **Rooftop-Mounted Equipment.** All rooftop-mounted equipment must be screened from public view with concealment measures that match the underlying structure in proportion, quality, architectural style and finish. The approval authority may approve unscreened rooftop equipment only when it expressly finds that such equipment is effectively concealed due to its low height and/or setback from the roofline.
- c. **Ground-Mounted Equipment; Shelters.** All ground-mounted equipment must be concealed underground or within an existing or new structure, opaque fences, building interior equipment room, or other enclosures subject to the approval authority’s prior approval. The approval authority may require additional concealment elements as the approval authority finds necessary to blend the ground-mounted equipment and other improvements into the natural and/or built environment.

Right-of-Way Wireless Facilities

- a. **Existing Support Structures.** All wireless facilities in the public right-of-way must be installed on existing above-ground structures (such as light standards or utility poles) whenever possible.
 1. **Traffic Signals.** The approval authority shall not approve any wireless facility proposed to be installed on a traffic control pole unless the Chief of Planning finds, in consultation with other Town departments or agencies, that the traffic control pole has sufficient capacity to support the wireless facility.
 2. **Decorative Poles.** Wireless facilities shall not be attached to or installed on decorative poles. Decorative poles may be replaced as provided in these guidelines.





- b. **Replacement Support Structures.** Existing above-ground structures may be replaced with structurally hardened, fitted or reinforced support structures so long as the replacement structure is, in the approval authority's discretion, substantially similar to the existing structure to be replaced.

- c. **New Support Structures.** The approval authority shall not approve any new, non-replacement support structures unless:
 - (i) the applicant demonstrates that above-ground support structures within the intended service area either do not exist or are not potentially available to the applicant; or
 - (ii) the

approval authority specifically finds that a new, non-replacement support structure would be more aesthetically desirable and consistent with the objectives in this section than installations on existing structures near the project site. The approval authority shall have the discretion to require that any new support structure must be a streetlight that conforms to the Town's streetlight standards and specifications, which the Town shall maintain for street illumination and public safety purposes.

- d. **Undergrounded Equipment.** To conceal the equipment to the maximum degree feasible, applicants must install all equipment (other than the antenna and any electric meter) underground in any area in which the existing utilities are primarily located underground. In all other areas, applicants shall install all equipment (other than the antenna and any electric meter) underground when the approval authority finds that the above-ground equipment would unreasonably interfere with the public's ability to use the right-of-way for uses that include without limitation travel, social, expressive and/or aesthetic uses. When making a determination on whether to require undergrounded equipment, the approval authority shall take into account the presence of existing above-ground utilities. Mere additional expense to install and maintain an underground equipment enclosure does not exempt an applicant from this requirement. If an applicant proposes to install a facility in an area in which the existing utilities are primarily located underground, the approval authority shall have the discretion to require that the applicant install a new streetlight that conforms to the Town's streetlight standards and specifications as the facility support structure.



- e. **Pole-Mounted Equipment.** All pole-mounted equipment must be installed flush to the pole to minimize the overall visual profile. If any applicable health and safety regulations prohibit flush-mounted equipment, the maximum separation between the equipment and the pole shall be the minimum separation required by such regulations. All pole-mounted equipment and required or permitted signage must face toward the street or otherwise placed to minimize visibility from adjacent sidewalks and structures to the extent feasible. All cables, wires and other connectors must be routed through conduits within the pole whenever possible, and all conduit

attachments, cables, wires and other connectors must be concealed from public view to the extent feasible.

- f. **Ground-Mounted Equipment.** To the extent that the equipment cannot be placed underground as required, applicants may be permitted to install ground-mounted equipment in a location that does not obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic. All ground-mounted equipment must be placed in the least conspicuous location available within a reasonable distance from the pole. The approval authority may condition approval on new or enhanced landscaping to conceal ground-mounted equipment. The approval authority shall not approve a ground-mounted electric meter pedestal or other electric meter enclosure to the extent feasible.
- g. **Antenna Volume.** Each antenna associated with a wireless facility in the public rights-of-way shall not exceed three (3) cubic feet in volume, and the cumulative volume for all antennas associated with a wireless facility in the public rights-of-way shall not exceed six (6) cubic feet in total volume. For the purposes in this Section D.3.g, “volume” shall include any shroud, radome or other concealment device used in connection with the antenna.
- h. **Accessory Equipment Volume.** The cumulative volume for all non-antenna accessory equipment associated with a wireless facility in the public rights-of-way shall not exceed nine and one-half (9.5) cubic feet. For the purposes in this Section D.3.h, “volume” shall include any shroud, cabinet, housing or other concealment device used in connection with the accessory equipment, but shall not include any equipment or other improvements installed below ground level or any cables or connectors placed within the pole or other support structure.
- i. **Illustrative Examples.** The following photographs depict wireless facility designs that the Town may deem appropriate in preferred locations. These examples are illustrative only, and may not be appropriate in all cases.









