

As the demand for high-speed wireless networks continues to increase, wireless carriers are working to modernize their networks by installing small cell sites. Cell sites use radio frequencies to connect our technology devices to a wireless network. Small cells exist to serve areas with inadequate wireless infrastructure and in our community with high technology usage.

For more information, please visit longbeach.gov/smallcells.



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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES

An informational pamphlet on
small cell sites in Long Beach.



WHAT ARE SMALL CELLS AND WHO DO THEY SERVE?

Small cells are compact wireless access points that enhance data capacity in highly-populated neighborhoods, schools, and medical facilities in our community. Small cells are connected by fiber optics and are discreetly placed on existing infrastructure in the public right-of-way, allowing for strong signals to our devices.



WHO REGULATES AND MAINTAINS SMALL CELL SITES?

Wireless networks are a part of a national infrastructure that is regulated by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to make data capacity readily available. The City relies on the FCC to regulate wireless network coverage in assuring that wireless providers remain in compliance with federal and state laws.

The City is not responsible for maintaining or funding small cells as this utility service is provided by network carriers to provide better data capacity citywide. In addition, the City Council approved LBMC 15.34 consisting of rules and guidelines regulating the establishment and operation of wireless service facilities within the public right-of-way.

DOES THE CITY FUND SMALL CELL INSTALLATION?

Small cells are not City funded utilities. Small cell sites are installed by utility providers and permitted by the Long Beach Public Works Department.



IS THERE A PROCESS TO APPEAL?

Sites within planning protected locations as defined by LBMC 15.34 can be appealed. Once a wireless carrier mails and posts a written notice at the proposed installation site, any person owning property or residing adjacent to or directly across the street from the proposed installation may submit an appeal.

Appellants must submit a written appeal and a monetary fee of \$106.20 to the City Clerk's office within 10 business days from the date the notice was mailed and posted. If an appeal and fee are timely submitted, a public hearing date will be set for the appeal and distributed to the wireless carrier and appellant. The hearing officer shall issue a written resolution containing the determination within 14 business days following the close of evidence of the public hearing on the appeal. The resolution will include a summary of the evidence and ultimate determination whether to grant, grant with modifications, or deny the appeal.

WHAT ARE THE AESTHETIC GUIDELINES?

The Department of Public Works prefers the installation of small cell equipment to be on existing public right-of-way infrastructure, such as street lights. Installation sites may not be in a center median, obstruct vehicular traffic, or require the removal of a parkway tree. In addition to the City's aesthetic guidelines (LBMC 15.34), an independent study shall be performed to ensure that the installation site satisfies the Public Health Compliance Standard.

