Case File Number DR10-329

June 1, 2011

Location: 2140 Arrowhead Drive (APN 048E-7325-075-00)

Proposal: To install new telecom facility on Joint Powers Authority pole in

right-of-way

Contact Person/Phone Number: Rick Hirsch, Extenet Systems (415) 377-7826

Owner: City of Oakland (street right-of-way)

Case File Number: DR10-339

Planning Permits Required: Regular Design Review for telecommunications facility on JPA (Joint

Powers Authority) pole in street right-of-way including 1 antenna, two equipment boxes, 1 backup battery unit and 1 meter box, generally 7

feet above grade, raising height 9 feet to 49 feet

General Plan: Hillside Residential

Zoning: RH-4 Hillside Residential/S-11 Site Development and Design Review

Environmental Determination: Categorically Exempt, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Guidelines Section 15301, Minor Alterations, Existing Facilities

Historic Status: Not a Potential Designated Historic Property (street right-of-way)

Service Delivery District: 2 City Council District: 4

Date Filed: December 14, 2010

Action to be Taken: Decision on application based on staff report

Staff Recommendation: Approve with conditions. Finality of Decision: Appealable to City Council

For Further Information: David Valeska at (510) 238-2075 or dvaleska@oaklandnet.com

SUMMARY

The proposed project is to allow Extenet Systems (a telecom company) to attach one antenna and various related equipment to an existing wooden utility pole for wireless telecommunications purposes. The project is subject to Regular Design Review since it required an attachment of telecom equipment to a utility pole located in a residential zone. The proposal would enhance service to residents from a highly effective location with a relatively unobtrusive design. Staff recommends approval of the requested permit, as conditioned, subject to the attached Findings and Conditions of Approval.

SITE DESCRIPTION

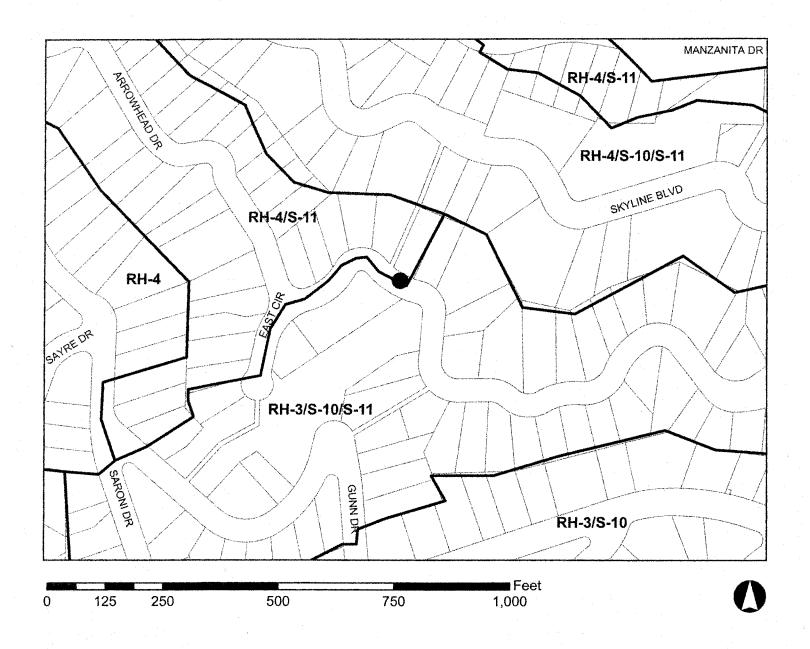
The site is a section of the public right-of-way near 2140 Arrowhead Drive. This section of road contains no sidewalk. There are homes of various elevations along the hillside street. The site contains a utility pole with overhead lines. The area consists of a low density neighborhood of single-family homes on wooded hillsides with numerous Eucalyptus and other large trees.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposal is for Regular Design Review for a telecommunications facility on a JPA (Joint Powers Authority) pole in City street right-of-way including 1 antenna, two equipment boxes, 1 backup battery unit and 1 meter box, generally 7 feet above grade, in addition to existing lines and boxes on the pole, raising height 9 feet to a total of 49 feet.

The antenna would be nearly cylindrical in shape, slightly flared out towards the bottom. The pole mounted equipment cabinets would be contained in a singular shroud painted matte (non-reflective) brown to match the color and finish of the wooden pole. The extension on top of the pole is required for sufficient

CITY OF OAKLAND PLANNING COMMISSION



Case File: DR10-329

Applicant: Rick Hirsch, Extenet Systems

Address: 2140 Arrowhead Drive (on JPA pole in City right-of-way)

Zone: RH-4/S-11

height to propagate signals and obtain effective coverage.

GENERAL PLAN ANALYSIS

The site is located in a Hillside Residential area under the General Plan. The intent of the Hillside Residential area is: "to create, maintain, and enhance residential areas characterized by detached, single unit structures." The General Plan is silent on telecommunications activities.

ZONING ANALYSIS

The site is located within the RH-4 Hillside Residential Zone – 4/S-11 Combining Zone (Site Development and Design Review). The intent of the RH-4 zone is: "to create, maintain, and enhance areas for single-family dwellings on lots of 6,500 to 8,000 square feet and is typically appropriate in already developed areas of the Oakland Hills." At the time the project was submitted and deemed complete, the property was located within the R-30 One-Family Residential Zone. The intent of the R-30 Residential Zone is: "to create, preserve, and enhance areas for single-family dwellings in desirable settings for urban living, and is typically appropriate to already developed lower density dwelling areas of the city." The change in Zoning does not affect the project.

Recent State case law (Sprint v. Palos Verdes Estates) has enabled the City to require Design Review for telecommunications facilities attached to existing utility poles located within the right-of-way. The Planning & Zoning Department has determined that such Design Reviews be decided at the equivalent level as telecommunications projects located on private property located in the same zone. Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) preempted cities' zoning jurisdiction over wireless telecommunications facilities, limiting their authority to aesthetic review and confirmation of satisfactory radio frequency (RF) emissions reports. For further information the FCC can be contacted at 1-888-225-5322 or www.fcc.gov

Telecommunications facilities located on JPA poles are now subject to Design Review. Additional findings for Macro facilities apply to all JPA cases. Findings required to approve the project ensure the location and design are inconspicuous and concealed to the extent practicable. Authority for review and approval is to be equivalent to Zoning for private property. Therefore, the subject proposal for a site located in a residential zone is referred to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has approved a JPA case that was located in front of taller trees and no residences, and has continued another case for relocation and/or redesign that was located fronting a residence. Given advancing technologies, enhanced service at this location would assist users in the residential zone and area parks. The antenna would generally maintain the shape of the pole and pole-mounted equipment cabinets would be contained in a singular sheath painted matte brown to match the color and finish of the wooden pole. The proposal meets the Telecommunications Regulations for Site Location Preferences for locating on City property on a quasi-public facility and a site alternatives analysis is not required. A site design preference analysis has been submitted. A satisfactory emissions (RF) report has also been submitted. Staff finds the proposal to be consistent with the Planning Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines categorically exempts specific types of projects from environmental review. Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines exempts projects involving "...the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use..." The proposal to attach wireless telecommunications antennas and related equipment to an existing wooden utility guy pole meets this description. The project is therefore exempt from further Environmental Review.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

In consideration of the proposal, site surroundings, and discussions regarding recent cases under this relatively new type of review, staff recommends Planning Commission approval of this application for the following reasons:

The site does not front a scenic vista; and

The proposal features:

- an existing structure (JPA guy pole) in an area lacking other non-residential structures
- a facility not appreciably taller than adjacent structures (that is, trees)
- no ground mounted equipment cabinets
- pole mounted equipment cabinets to be encased in a single, continuous shroud painted matte brown to match the color and finish of the wooden utility guy pole

Section 17.128.110 of the City of Oakland Telecommunication Regulations indicate that new wireless facilities shall generally be located on designated properties or facilities. The first two choices among seven listed choices are "A: co-located on an existing structure or facility with existing wireless antennas; and B: City owned properties or other public or quasi-public facilities." This application fulfills B above, and since A is not applicable, fulfilling B is sufficient for this case.

Regarding radio frequency (RF) emission standards, an RF report was reviewed and approved for this case, noting that the proposed facility meets applicable Federal standards limiting human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields, which supersede any State or local RF standards. Conditions included in this report affirm that these standards will be tested and met during the construction of the facilities.

No correspondence has been received by the City regarding the application.

CONCLUSION:

The request is needed to provide adequate communications services in the neighborhood and has minimal change from existing pole conditions. The plan is as good as, or better than, alternatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Affirm staff's environmental determination.
- 2. Approve the Regular Design Review subject to the attached Findings, Additional Findings, and Conditions.

Prepared by:

DAVID VALESKA

Planner II

Approved by:

Good Willer SCOTT MILLER

Zoning Manager

Community and Economic Development Agency

Approved for forwarding to the

City Planning Commission:

ERIC ANGSTADT

Deputy Director

Community and Economic Development Agency

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Findings for Approval
- B. Conditions of Approval
- C. Plans
- D. Applicant's Photo-Simulations

Attachment A: Findings for Approval

This proposal meets the required findings under Regular Design Review Criteria (OMC Sec. 17.136.040(B)), Design Review Criteria for Macro Facilities (OMC Sec. 17.128.070(B)), and S-11 Scenic Route Combining Zone/Design Review Criteria (OMC Sec. 17.90.050) as set forth below. Required findings are shown in bold type; explanations as to why these findings can be made are in normal type.

REGULAR DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA FOR NONRESIDENTIAL FACILITIES(OMC SEC. 17.136.040(B))

1. That the proposal will help achieve or maintain a group of facilities which are well related to one another and which, when taken together, will result in a well-composed design, with consideration given to site, landscape, bulk, height, arrangement, texture, materials, colors, and appurtenances; the relation of these factors to other facilities in the vicinity; and the relation of the proposal to the total setting as seen from key points in the surrounding area. Only elements of design which have some significant relationship to outside appearance shall be considered, except as otherwise provided in Section 17.136.060;

The proposal is to attach a telecommunications facility on JPA (joint powers authority) pole in street right-of-way including 1 antenna, two equipment boxes, 1 backup battery unit and 1 meter box, generally 7 feet above grade, in addition to existing lines and boxes on pole, raising height 16 feet to 41 ½ feet, in a residential area. The antenna would be nearly cylindrical in shape, slightly flared out towards the bottom. The pole mounted equipment cabinets would be contained in a singular shroud painted matte brown to match the color of the wooden guy pole. The extension on top of the pole is required for sufficient height to propagate signals and obtain effective coverage.

The site is a section of public right-of-way along Arrowhead Drive. This section of road contains no sidewalk. The homes along the road would not be impacted by the project, since it blocks no protected views as defined by the Oakland Planning Code and City Design Guidelines. The site contains a utility pole which hosts supportive cables for adjacent utility poles with overhead lines. The area consists of a low density neighborhood of single-family homes on wooded hillsides with numerous Eucalyptus trees. The site is located within the RH-4 Hillside Residential Zone - 4. The intent of the RH-4 zone is: "to create, maintain, and enhance areas for single-family dwellings on lots of 6,500 to 8,000 square feet and is typically appropriate in already developed areas of the Oakland Hills."

Given advancing technologies, enhanced service at this location would assist users in the residential and open space zones. The antenna would generally maintain the shape of the JPA guy pole and pole mounted equipment cabinets would be contained in a singular sheath painted matte brown to match the color and finish of the wooden guy pole. Staff finds the proposal to be consistent with the Planning Code.

2. That the proposed design will be of a quality and character which harmonizes with, and serves to protect the value of, private and public investments in the area;

This finding is met for the following reasons: The site does not block a scenic vista for residences; and The proposal features:

- an existing structure (JPA pole) in an area lacking other non-residential structures;
- a facility not appreciably taller than adjacent structures (that is, trees);
- no ground mounted equipment cabinets;
- pole mounted equipment cabinets to be encased in a single, continuous shroud painted matte brown to match the color and finish of the wooden utility pole.

3. That the proposed design conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland General Plan and with any applicable design review guidelines or criteria, district plan, or development control map which have been adopted by the Planning Commission or City Council.

The site is located in a Hillside Residential area under the General Plan. The intent of the Hillside Residential area is: "to create, maintain, and enhance residential areas characterized by detached, single unit structures." The General Plan is silent on telecommunications activities (which are now classified as Essential Service Civic Activity under the Planning Code). The proposal would enhance service to residents and park users from a highly effective location with a relatively unobtrusive design. Staff finds the proposal to be in conformance with the General Plan.

DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA FOR MACRO FACILITIES (OMC SEC. 17.128.070(B)):

1. Antennas should be painted and/or textured to match the existing structure.

The antenna will be painted matte brown to match the color and finish of the wooden utility pole.

2. Antennas mounted on architecturally significant structures or significant architectural detail of the building should be covered by appropriate casings which are manufactured to match existing architectural features found on the building.

The antenna will be attached to an existing wooden utility pole, as extended.

3. Where feasible, antennas can be placed directly above, below or incorporated with vertical design elements of a building to help in camouflaging.

The antenna will be mounted directly on top of the existing wooden utility pole, as enlarged.

4. Equipment shelters or cabinets shall be screened from the public view by using landscaping, or materials and colors consistent with surrounding backdrop or placed underground or inside existing facilities or behind screening fences.

Equipment cabinets will be mounted to the pole in a singular shroud that is significantly smaller than typical ground mounted cabinets and shelters and the exterior will be painted matte brown to match the color and finish of the wooden pole.

5. Equipment shelters or cabinets shall be consistent with the general character of the area.

Equipment cabinets will be housed in a singular shroud attached to an existing structure (wooden utility pole) and painted matte brown to match its color and finish.

6. For antennas attached to the roof, maintain a 1:1 ratio (example: ten feet high antenna requires ten feet setback from facade) for equipment setback; screen the antennas to match existing air conditioning units, stairs, or elevator towers; avoid placing roof mounted antennas in direct line with significant view corridors.

This finding is inapplicable; the proposal does not involve a roofed structure.

7. That all reasonable means of reducing public access to the antennas and equipment has been

made, including, but not limited to, placement in or on buildings or structures, fencing, anticlimbing measures and anti-tampering devices.

Equipment will be pole mounted a minimum of seven feet above grade and will be encased in a shroud; the antenna will be located up to 49 feet above grade.

S-11 SCENIC ROUTE COMBINING ZONE REGULATIONS/DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA (OMC SEC. 17.90.050)

A. That the siting, grading, and design will, to the maximum extent feasible, preserve existing live trees and other desirable natural features;

The proposal does not include tree removal or grading.

B. That the proposed development will, as far as practicable, maintain existing vistas or panoramas which can be seen from the abutting public road and maintain the visual value of the total setting or character of the surrounding area.

The site is located in a canyon and does not front a vista.

Attachment B: Conditions of Approval

1. Approved Use

Ongoing

- a) The project shall be constructed and operated in accordance with the authorized use as described in the application materials and the revised plans dated May, 2011 and resubmitted to the City on May 2, 2011, and as amended by the following conditions. Any additional uses or facilities other than those approved with this permit, as described in the project description and the approved plans, will require a separate application and approval. Any deviation from the approved drawings, Conditions of Approval or use shall require prior written approval from the Director of City Planning or designee.
- b) This action by the Planning Commission ("this Approval") includes the approvals set forth below. This Approval includes establishment of a wireless telecommunications facility on a utility pole including one antenna attached to the top of the pole, and a singular shroud containing pole mounted equipment, all painted matte brown.

2. Effective Date, Expiration, Extensions and Extinguishment

Ongoing

Unless a different termination date is prescribed, this Approval shall expire **two (2) years** from the approval date, unless within such period all necessary permits for construction or alteration have been issued, or the authorized activities have commenced in the case of a permit not involving construction or alteration. Upon written request and payment of appropriate fees submitted no later than the expiration date of this permit, the Director of City Planning or designee may grant a one-year extension of this date, with additional extensions subject to approval by the approving body. Expiration of any necessary building permit for this project may invalidate this Approval if the said extension period has also expired.

3. Scope of This Approval; Major and Minor Changes

Ongoing

The project is approved pursuant to the **Planning Code** only. Minor changes to approved plans may be approved administratively by the Director of City Planning or designee. Major changes to the approved plans shall be reviewed by the Director of City Planning or designee to determine whether such changes require submittal and approval of a revision to the approved project by the approving body or a new, completely independent permit.

4. Conformance with other Requirements

Prior to issuance of a demolition, grading, P-job, or other construction related permit

- a) The project applicant shall comply with all other applicable federal, state, regional and/or local laws/codes, requirements, regulations, and guidelines, including but not limited to those imposed by the City's Building Services Division, the City's Fire Marshal, and the City's Public Works Agency. Compliance with other applicable requirements may require changes to the approved use and/or plans. These changes shall be processed in accordance with the procedures contained in Condition of Approval #3.
- b) The applicant shall submit approved building plans for project-specific needs related to fire protection to the Fire Services Division for review and approval, including, but not limited to automatic extinguishing systems, water supply improvements and hydrants, fire department access, elevated walking pathways, safety railings, emergency access and lighting.

5. Conformance to Approved Plans; Modification of Conditions or Revocation Ongoing

- a) Site shall be kept in a blight/nuisance-free condition. Any existing blight or nuisance shall be abated within 60-90 days of approval, unless an earlier date is specified elsewhere.
- b) Violation of any term, Conditions of Approval or project description relating to the Conditions of Approval is unlawful, prohibited, and a violation of the Oakland Municipal Code. The City of Oakland reserves the right to initiate civil and/or criminal enforcement and/or abatement proceedings, or after notice and public hearing, to revoke the Approvals or alter these Conditions of Approval if it is found that there is violation of any of the Conditions of Approval or the provisions of the Planning Code or Municipal Code, or the project operates as or causes a public nuisance. This provision is not intended to, nor does it, limit in any manner whatsoever the ability of the City to take appropriate enforcement actions. The project applicant shall be responsible for paying fees in accordance with the City's Master Fee Schedule for inspections conducted by the City or a City-designated third-party to investigate alleged violations of the Conditions of Approval.

6. Signed Copy of the Conditions of Approval

A copy of the approval letter and Conditions of Approval shall be signed by the property owner, notarized, and submitted with each set of permit plans to the appropriate City agency for this project.

7. Indemnification

Ongoing

- a. To the maximum extent permitted by law, the applicant shall defend (with counsel acceptable to the City), indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Oakland, the Oakland City Council, the City of Oakland Redevelopment Agency, the Oakland City Planning Commission and its respective agents, officers, and employees (hereafter collectively called City) from any liability, damages, claim, judgment, loss (direct or indirect)action, causes of action, or proceeding (including legal costs, attorneys' fees, expert witness or consultant fees, City Attorney or staff time, expenses or costs) (collectively called "Action") against the City to attack, set aside, void or annul, (1) an approval by the City relating to a development-related application or subdivision or (2) implementation of an approved development-related project. The City may elect, in its sole discretion, to participate in the defense of said Action and the applicant shall reimburse the City for its reasonable legal costs and attorneys' fees.
- b. Within ten (10) calendar days of the filing of any Action as specified in subsection A above, the applicant shall execute a Letter of Agreement with the City, acceptable to the Office of the City Attorney, which memorializes the above obligations. These obligations and the Letter of Agreement shall survive termination, extinguishment or invalidation of the approval. Failure to timely execute the Letter of Agreement does not relieve the applicant of any of the obligations contained in this condition or other requirements or Conditions of Approval that may be imposed by the City.

8. Compliance with Conditions of Approval

Ongoing

The project applicant shall be responsible for compliance with the recommendations in any submitted and approved technical report and all the Conditions of Approval set forth below at its sole cost and expense, and subject to review and approval of the City of Oakland.

9. Severability

Ongoing

Approval of the project would not have been granted but for the applicability and validity of each and every one of the specified Conditions of Approval, and if one or more of such Conditions of Approval is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, this Approval would not have been granted without requiring other valid Conditions of Approval consistent with achieving the same purpose and intent of such Approval.

10. Landscape Maintenance.

Ongoing

All new landscaping shall be permanently maintained in good growing condition and, whenever necessary, replaced with new plant materials to ensure continued compliance with applicable landscaping requirements.

11. Operational Noise-General

Ongoing.

Noise levels from the activity, property, or any mechanical equipment on site shall comply with the performance standards of Section 17.120 of the Oakland Planning Code and Section 8.18 of the Oakland Municipal Code. If noise levels exceed these standards, the activity causing the noise shall be abated until appropriate noise reduction measures have been installed and compliance verified by the Planning and Zoning Division and Building Services (see also condition #30).

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

12. Sinking Fund For Facility Removal Or Abandonment

Prior to the issuance of building permit

The applicant shall provide proof of the establishment of a sinking fund to cover the cost of removing the facility if it is abandoned within a prescribed period. The word "abandoned" shall mean a facility that has not been operational for a six (6) month period, except where non-operation is the result of maintenance of renovation activity pursuant to valid City permits. The sinking fund shall be established to cover a two-year period, at a financial institution approved by the City's Office of Budget and Finance. The sinking fund payment shall be determined by the Office of Budget and Finance and shall be adequate to defray expenses associated with the removal of the telecommunication facility.

13. Emissions Report

Prior to a final inspection

The applicant shall provide an RF emissions report to the City of Oakland Zoning Division indicating that the site is actually operating within the acceptable thresholds as established by the Federal government or any such agency that may be subsequently authorized to establish such standards.

14. Camouflaging

Prior to a final inspection

All apparatus (including but not limited to antenna and equipment) shall be painted brown (matte or non-reflective) to match the color and finish of the existing wooden utility guy pole.

15. Servicing

Ongoing

All servicing of equipment performed by Extenet will be performed by bucket truck and not pole

Conditions of Approval

	<i>June 1, 2011</i>
	Page 11
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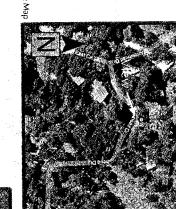
climbing in an effort to protect adjacent trees, as voluntarily agreed upon by Extenet.

APPROVED BY:			
City Planning Commission:_	(date)	(vote)

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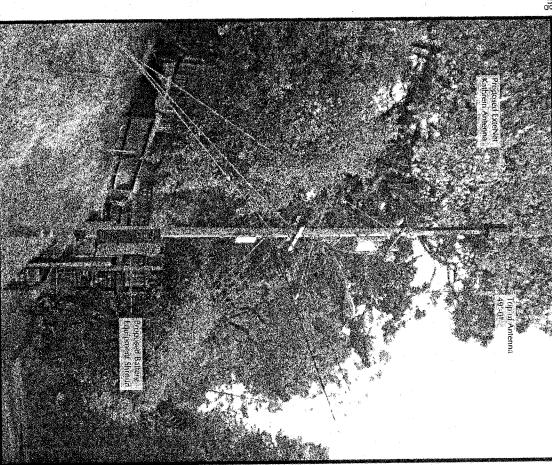
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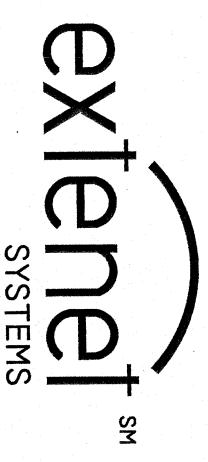








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extenet "

3030 WARREWALE RD. SUIT 340 USLF, N. 60512 www.extenst.com

2 4/19/11 CONSTRUCTORY
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