

1 [Urging the State and Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Consider Pedestrian Safety and  
2 Neighborhood Character When Drafting Rules and Regulations for Wireless Facilities]

3 **Resolution urging the California Public Utilities Commission, the State Legislature, and**  
4 **Pacific Gas and Electric Company to consider pedestrian safety and neighborhood**  
5 **character when drafting rules and regulations for wireless facilities.**

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7 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s aesthetic beauty, high level of walkability, and general  
8 urban character are vital to the City’s tourist industry and are a primary reason why  
9 businesses and residents choose to locate here; and

10 WHEREAS, The City’s resident, business, and tourist communities drive demand for  
11 wireless services; and

12 WHEREAS, The City and wireless carriers face a challenge of integrating the  
13 infrastructure needed for wireless service in a manner which does not detract from the City’s  
14 beauty or adversely impact pedestrian safety; and

15 WHEREAS, Wireless carriers have the ability to use various types of designs to create  
16 networks which feature a combination of macros (panel antennas hidden in fake vent pipes on  
17 building rooftops), micros (single panel antenna hidden on rooftops or in building signage),  
18 small cells (antennas affixed to City owned light and transit poles), and Distributed Antenna  
19 Systems (“DAS”) which feature antennas and boxes attached to non-City owned wooden  
20 utility and wooden streetlight poles; and

21 WHEREAS, The City features over 300 DAS facilities which vary greatly in size from  
22 those with a slender unobtrusive antenna profile and two to three modest equipment  
23 enclosures (hereinafter “DAS R”); to those with multiple panel antennas rising well into view  
24 above a neighborhood, and three to four bulky equipment enclosures (hereinafter “DAS XL”);  
25 and

1           WHEREAS, A typical well-designed and scale-appropriate macro site on a building  
2 rooftop can provide equivalent coverage and capacity (data usage) as four to twelve pole-  
3 mounted DAS facilities while avoiding placement of elements within the right-of-way, where in  
4 San Francisco sidewalks are often narrow and setbacks are often non-existent; and

5           WHEREAS, DAS facilities, particularly those considered “XL,” can generate a host of  
6 negative effects including concerns over structural loading on wood poles, the use of noise  
7 generating fans for larger equipment cabinets that may be only a few feet away from a  
8 bedroom bay window, the potential for bulky cabinet enclosures to impair light, air, and view  
9 for nearby residents, and the cumulative negative effect such facilities may have on historic  
10 residential streetscapes when up to four wireless carriers choose to site near each other; and

11           WHEREAS, Current and proposed rules that may be under review by the California  
12 Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), along with existing Pacific Gas & Electric standards  
13 present challenges that could result in DAS systems that are more physically and visually  
14 obtrusive than technologically needed for robust wireless coverage, including potential  
15 mandates that would result in the following negative outcomes: new sidewalk mounted  
16 facilities the size of refrigerators; meter pedestals on sidewalks; wider pole-mounted boxes for  
17 larger electric meters; and replacement poles up to 20 feet higher than an existing pole; and

18           WHEREAS, San Francisco, as an urban environment, has different and more intense  
19 demands on its sidewalks and rights of ways; including a high level of pedestrian traffic; and

20           WHEREAS, San Francisco has one of the highest pedestrian injury rates in the State  
21 and the city is committed to and has an interest in improving this statistic; and

22           WHEREAS, Sidewalk elements, such as surface utilities mounted on sidewalks both  
23 limit pedestrian circulation and obscure visibility of pedestrians, which is a primary cause of  
24 vehicular-pedestrian collisions; and

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1           WHEREAS, San Francisco has recently seen substantial deployment of more  
2 comparatively desirable and scale-appropriate micro or macro antennas on buildings and has  
3 decreased the time required to process an application for rooftop antennas; now, therefore, be  
4 it

5           RESOLVED, That San Francisco urges the California Public Utilities Commission and  
6 Pacific Gas and Electric to adopt rules, regulations, and standards that minimize impacts on  
7 pedestrian safety and aesthetic blight in urban environments by avoiding the need for DAS  
8 facilities to feature large sidewalk mounted facilities and electric meters and substantial pole  
9 height increases; and, be it

10          FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco urges Pacific Gas and Electric to amend  
11 its rules in a format such as and Advice Letter so as to emulate more balanced metering  
12 policies, such as those safely established by San Diego Gas and Electric, so that a “line  
13 drop(s)” can be utilized, thereby negating the need for a wide electric meter enclosure to be  
14 added to a DAS facility; whether at the bottom of a pole, or on a new ground mounted  
15 enclosure; and, be it

16          FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco urges the State legislature to take into  
17 account the need to balance the impacts wireless infrastructure may have on urban  
18 communities and ensure State laws which govern the right of way have the effect of allowing  
19 local cities to work with carriers to seek less intrusive means of providing competitive  
20 coverage and capacity; and, be it

21          FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco urges the State legislature to ensure that  
22 local control in determining the best and least obtrusive citing for wireless and other utility  
23 infrastructure is not limited as it considers bills such as AB 57 (Quirk); and, be it

24          FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco encourages wireless providers to focus  
25 on continued collaboration with the community and the Planning Department on well-designed

1 and scale-appropriate wireless facilities located in locations that do not adversely impact  
2 pedestrian safety and aesthetic character.

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