



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE ISSUED: June 21, 2007 **REPORT NO. PC-07-079**

ATTENTION: Planning Commission, Agenda of June 28, 2007

SUBJECT: AMERICAN TOWER CUP'S - PROJECT NO.'S 90455, 90475, 90486, 91175, 107501 - **PROCESS: 3 (ON APPEAL)** AND PROJECT NO.'S 92067, 92076 - **PROCESS: 4** AND PROJECT NO. 91178 - **PROCESS 5 (RECOMMENDATION)**

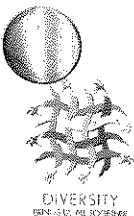
OWNERS: Various (See Ownership Disclosures in Attachments A-H. Updated versions will be distributed at the Planning Commission Hearing)

APPLICANT: American Tower Corporation

SUMMARY

Issue(s):

1. Should the Planning Commission approve or deny an appeal of five Conditional Use Permits for expired major telecommunication facilities (four different monopoles and one shelter with roof top antennas in addition to associated ground equipment)?
2. Should the Planning Commission approve or deny two additional Conditional Use Permits that have accompanying Planned Development Permits (for height deviations) for existing expired major telecommunication facilities (two different monopoles with associated ground equipment)?
3. Should the Planning Commission recommend denial to the City Council of a Conditional Use Permit and a Site Development Permit (for Clairemont Mesa Height Limitation Overlay deviation) for an existing, expired 136 foot high monopole located at 6426 Mt. Ada Drive within the Clairemont Mesa Community Planning area?



Staff Recommendation:

1. **Deny** the appeal and **Uphold** the Hearing Officer's decision to **Deny** Conditional Use Permit No. 289921 (Verus Street – PTS No. 90455).
2. **Deny** the appeal and **Uphold** the Hearing Officer's decision to **Deny** Conditional Use Permit No. 289973 (Yolanda Avenue – PTS No. 90475).
3. **Deny** the appeal and **Uphold** the Hearing Officer's decision to **Deny** Conditional Use Permit No. 290030 (Kearny Villa – PTS No. 90486).
4. **Deny** the appeal and **Uphold** the Hearing Officer's decision to **Deny** Conditional Use Permit No. 292612 (Federal Boulevard – PTS No. 91175).
5. **Deny** the appeal and **Uphold** the Hearing Officer's decision to **Deny** Conditional Use Permit No. 357727 (Mini Storage – PTS No. 107501).
6. **Deny** Conditional Use Permit No. 296127 and Site Development Permit No. 452327 (30th Place – PTS No. 92067).
7. **Deny** Conditional Use Permit No. 296155 and Planned Development Permit No. 296156 (Aviation – PTS No. 92076).
8. **Recommend** that the City Council **Deny** Conditional Use Permit No. 292627 and Site Development Permit No. 450714 (Mt. Ada – PTS No. 91178).

Community Planning Group Recommendation:

1. On March 8, 2006, the Otay Mesa-Nestor Community Planning Committee voted 14-0-0 to recommend approval of Project No. 90455 for **Verus** (Attachment A-7).
2. On February 15, 2006, the Kearny Mesa Community Planning Group voted 10-0-1 to recommend approval of Project No. 90475 for **Yolanda** (Attachment B-7). Additionally, due to the location of the project site on the border of Serra Mesa, the Serra Mesa Planning Group submitted a letter recommending approval of the project if the facility is redesigned to comply with the Land Development Code (Attachment B-8).
3. On April 19, 2006, the Kearny Mesa Community Planning Group voted 10-0-0 to recommend approval of Project No. 90486 for **Kearny Villa** (Attachment C-7).

4. On March 6, 2006, the City Heights Area Planning Committee voted 10-2-0 to recommend approval of Project No. 91175 for **Federal**. Their vote included a recommendation to improve the landscape on site and also to provide suitably located street trees (Attachment D-7).
5. The applicant has not yet presented **Mini Storage** to the City Heights Area Planning Committee for a recommendation.
6. On March 27, 2006, American Tower met with the Technical Subcommittee of the Southeastern San Diego Planning Committee on **30th Place**. They requested additional information on landscape and replacement of the existing chain link fence with wrought iron. American Tower has not been able to present to the Southeastern San Diego Planning Committee to date.
7. American Tower has not yet presented **Aviation** to the Skyline Paradise Hills Community Planning Committee for a recommendation.
8. On March 21, 2006, the Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee voted 14-0-0 to recommend denial of Project No. 91178 for **Mt. Ada** (Attachment X).

Environmental Review:

1. Project No. 90455 (Verus Street) was determined to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19 Section 15301 on January 13, 2006.
2. Project No. 90475 (Yolanda Avenue) was determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article 19 Section 15301 on February 13, 2007.
3. Project No. 90486 (Kearny Villa Road) was determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article 19 Section 15301 on March 1, 2007.
4. Project No. 91175 (Federal Boulevard) was determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article 19 Section 15301 on February 22, 2007.
5. Project No. 107501 (Mini Storage) was determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article 19 Section 15301 on August 15, 2006.
6. Project No. 92067 (30th Place) was determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article 19 Section 15301 on February 8, 2006.
7. Project No. 92076 (Aviation) was determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article 19 Section 15301 on March 1, 2007.

8. Project No. 91178 (Mt. Ada) was determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article 19 Section 15301 on January 23, 2006.

Fiscal Impact Statement: All costs associated with the processing of this project are paid from deposit accounts maintained by the applicant.

Code Enforcement Impact: Neighborhood Code Compliance was notified of the expired permits and has been monitoring their progress through the discretionary process over the past couple of years.

Housing Impact Statement: None associated with this project.

BACKGROUND

These wireless communication facilities are all existing and were approved more than ten years ago by either the Planning Commission or the City Council. The permits were issued to a specific wireless carrier for a period of ten years, but during that time frame the facilities were sold to a pole manager. American Tower Corporation (ATC) is now the owner and is attempting to obtain approval of new permits for each of these sites.

The original CUP's for these projects approved some of the last monopoles in the City. These projects include five Process 3's that were denied by the Hearing Officer and have been appealed by American Tower, two Process 4's and one Process 5, requiring a recommendation from Planning Commission. The eight projects are described in more detail as follows:

Process 3 – Appealed Projects

Verus Street – CUP No. 289921. The 90 foot high pole and 200 square-foot equipment shelter is located at 2222 Verus Street (Attachments A-1,2). The property is zoned IL-2-1 and it is designated for industrial use in the Otay Mesa-Nestor Community Plan (Attachment A-3). The pole currently has one tenant, Sprint Nextel, whose nine panel antennas are situated at 67 feet, leaving the upper 23 feet unused (Attachment A-6). The original CUP/CDP (94-0471) permitted up to three omni antennas and 12 panel antennas when it was approved on July 27, 1995 by the Planning Commission (Attachment A-9). The facility, as it exists, complies with the development regulations for the IL-2-1 zone. The existing tower would not require a Coastal Development Permit, however, if the project is redesigned, it will be subject to the coastal development regulations. Surrounding uses include industrial to the north, east and south. Interstate-5 is to the west with the San Diego Swiss Club beyond (Attachment A-1). This project, as proposed, is classified as a major telecommunication facility and requires a Conditional Use Permit due to the fact that it does not comply with the Communication Antenna regulations (Section 141.0405 of the LDC-Attachment I). On April 4, 2007, the Hearing Officer denied this project based on the inability to make the appropriate

findings in the affirmative.

Yolanda Avenue – CUP No. 289973. This project includes a 200 square-foot equipment shelter straddled with seven antennas mounted above the shelter on poles at approximately 15 feet in height located at the terminus of Yolanda Avenue above Interstate-15 in the Kearny Mesa Community Plan area (Attachments B-1,2). The property is zoned RS-1-1 and IL-2-1 and it contains steep slopes, sensitive vegetation and a portion is mapped MHPA. The Kearny Mesa Community Plan designates the site for Open Space (Attachment B-3). The original CUP (94-0527) permitted up to three omni antennas and 12 panel antennas when it was approved July 27, 1995 by the Planning Commission (Attachment B-10). The facility, as it exists, complies with the development regulations for the RS-1-1 zone, where the actual facility is located. Surrounding uses include single unit residential to the west, vacant residentially and industrially zoned properties to the north, south and east with the Southern Pacific Pipeline oil tanks at the bottom of the slope adjacent to Interstate-15 (Attachment B-1). This project poses a significant visual impact on the horizon when viewed from below or from across the canyon, therefore, it is classified as a major telecommunication facility and requires a Conditional Use Permit (Section 141.0405 of the LDC-Attachment I). The site also contains steep slopes and sensitive vegetation. The existing facility would not require an SDP, however if the project is redesigned, it would be subject to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands regulations and an SDP would be required. Additionally, the Communication Antenna regulations also prohibit major telecommunication facilities within one-half mile of another major telecommunication facility. There are two other major telecommunication facilities adjacent to this one. On April 4, 2007, the Hearing Officer denied this project based on the inability to make the appropriate findings in the affirmative.

Kearny Villa Road – CUP No. 290030. The 120 foot high monopole and 200 square-foot equipment shelter is located at 5571 Kearny Villa Road (Attachment C-1,2). The property is zoned IL-2-1 and is designated for industrial use in the Kearny Mesa Community Plan (Attachment C-3). The pole currently supports nine panel antennas at approximately 75 feet. What appears to be another tenant with three panel antennas exists at approximately 62 feet. The upper (approximate) 41 feet of the pole is not being used, although there are two empty antenna racks currently situated on the pole (Attachment C-6). The facility was built under the M-1B zone (previous Code), which had different setback requirements from those of the IL-2-1 zone. As a result, the pole encroaches into the side yard setback approximately three and a half feet and the equipment enclosure encroaches six feet (Attachment C-5). If this project were approved, a Planned Development Permit would be required. The original CUP (94-0479) permitted up to three omni antennas and 12 panel antennas for Nextel and the same number of antennas for another carrier as a way to encourage collocation. The CUP was approved on January 26, 1995 by the Planning Commission (Attachment C-9). Surrounding uses are completely industrial and heavy commercial (Attachment C-3). This project poses a significant visual impact in the community and can be viewed from Highway-163, therefore, it is classified as a major telecommunication facility and requires a Conditional Use Permit (Section 141.0405-Attachment I). Several other towers dot the

Kearny Mesa community, but most are government communication towers and broadcast towers, both of which are regulated differently and a couple of major switch stations for two different wireless companies. On April 4, 2007, the Hearing Officer denied this project based on the inability to make the appropriate findings in the affirmative.

Federal Boulevard – CUP No. 292612. The 100 foot high monopole and 450 square-foot equipment shelter is located at 4586 Federal Boulevard (Attachments D-1,2). The property is zoned IL-3-1 and is designated for industrial use in the Mid-Cities Community Plan (Attachment D-3). The monopole currently has one tenant, Verizon, which has approximately 15 panel antennas (Attachment D-6). The original CUP (94-0627) permitted up to four dish antennas, six omni antennas and 30 panel antennas. The CUP was approved February 2, 1995 by the Planning Commission (Attachment D-9). The facility, as it exists, complies with the development regulations for the IL-3-1 zone. The project site is surrounded by industrial and heavy commercial uses (Attachment D-1). This project poses a significant visual impact in the community and can be viewed from Federal Boulevard and Highway-94, therefore, it is classified as a major telecommunication facility and requires a Conditional Use Permit due to the fact that it does not comply with the Communication Antenna regulations (Section 141.0405 of the LDC-Attachment I). On April 4, 2007, the Hearing Officer denied this project based on the inability to make the appropriate findings in the affirmative.

Mini Storage – CUP No. 357727. The 60 foot high monopole and 150 square-foot equipment room is located at 1529 38th Street (Attachment E-1,2). The property is zoned IL-2-1 and is designated for industrial use in the Mid-Cities Community Plan (Attachment E-3). The monopole currently has one tenant, Sprint Nextel, with Nextel at the top of the pole with nine panel antennas and Sprint at about the 35 foot height with six panel antennas (Attachment E-6). This site is a little different from the others in that there are multiple permits issued for various components and to different carriers. The original CUP (94-0330-12) for the monopole was issued to Nextel and permitted up to three omni antennas and 12 panel antennas and a 150 square-foot equipment room and was approved February 1, 1996 by the Planning Commission (Attachment E-8). Sprint, later was approved for nine panel antennas at approximately the 48 foot height and a 94 square-foot area for the equipment cabinets. This approval was issued administratively to Sprint on February 1, 2000. Now that Sprint Nextel has merged, this facility could be evaluated by the company for consolidation. The facility, as it exists, complies with the development regulations for the IL-2-1 zone. South of the property are industrial uses, to the west is industrial and single unit residential, to the north is an elementary school and single unit residential and to the east it is vacant with industrial uses below (Attachment E-1). This project, as proposed, is classified as a major telecommunication facility and requires a Conditional Use Permit due to the fact that it does not comply with the Communication Antenna regulations (Section 141.0405 of the LDC-Attachment I). On April 4, 2007, the Hearing Officer denied this project based on the inability to make the appropriate findings in the affirmative.

American Tower Corporation Appeal

ATC appealed the decision of the Hearing Officer on April 11, 2007 based on factual error and findings not supported (Attachment K). ATC claims that the CUP findings made in the negative were based on the unsupported assertion that the City imposed ten year time limits in order to require replacement of existing facilities. The claim goes on to cite that the City was assuming that carriers should have designed their networks to accommodate the removal or replacement of these towers. ATC believes they had a reasonable expectation that their CUP's would be renewed subject to compliance with conditions. Furthermore, ATC believes their tenants relied on the expectation that the permits would be renewed when they originally constructed their networks.

Staff Response

Please review attachment K to read the four different expiration conditions found in the permits that are the subject of this report. It is difficult to understand how these conditions could be misinterpreted to mean or imply that any of the applicants had reasonable expectations that a permit could be extended or that a facility could remain without legally obtaining the appropriate permits in compliance with current regulations. The whole point of the expiration was to allow a facility to operate with the express intent that if the tower became obsolete, it would be removed and that if technology or legislative changes were made, then these facilities would be modified to accommodate these changes. Each of the carriers signed the CUP's acknowledging that they agreed with the conditions of the permits. The Planning Commission imposed the expiration date in order to have the ability to reassess the facility according to any changes that would occur in the future that could reduce existing impacts to the communities where these facilities are located.

Since these towers were constructed between 10 and 20 years ago, the technology has evolved so that monopoles are no longer necessary as support structures. Due to the demand by many California jurisdictions, design companies have responded by developing many different stealth support structures that blend in to landscapes and environments to ensure that these facilities do not detract from communities. Some design options include clock towers, community identification signs, and water tanks. See Kramer.Firm's Wireless Site Gallery at <http://www.kramerfirm.com/cells/> for additional examples of how far the design industry has come in the last 10 years.

The towers in question were built as network backbones for either Pac Tel Mobile or Nextel. Slightly more than 20 years ago, Pac Tel Mobile (now Verizon) was one of two carriers in San Diego and they had only a handful of sites. The technology was still new and decision makers were unsure of what the future held for this technology. Today, Verizon has approximately 230 sites within the City. Technicians are continuously making adjustments to networks to accommodate new on-air sites, as well as changes in technology and consumer demands. Height reductions at these sites may require additional sites in order to avoid reduced coverage, but a carrier is not going to spend the money on new sites if adjustments to existing facilities can be made.

Nextel entered the San Diego market in 1994. They too, began with a handful of “high” sites and over the years, they have built approximately 235 sites in San Diego. In 2005, Sprint (who has approximately 230 sites) and Nextel merged, and although they each have different technologies (CDMA-Sprint, IDEN-Nextel) with different size needs, they do have opportunities to consolidate and make adjustments to compensate for height reductions.

ATC, on the other hand, is not a carrier, but rather a pole or site manager. Their business model is to acquire or permit facilities and market them as collocation sites. Out of all the towers that are the subject of this report, only two support more than one tenant.

When purchasing these portfolios from the previous tower owners, part of ATC’s due diligence would have uncovered the CUP’s and the expiration dates. None of the applications for these expired CUP’s were submitted to the City until after the expiration date when they were notified by the City. ATC submitted the applications requesting that they be treated as an extension to the original permit. The Land Development Code does not contain provisions for extending permits and these permits all had specific expiration dates expressly included for the reasons stated above.

It is important to note that the City is not requesting that the facilities be removed, but instead that they be redesigned to address the current regulations requiring architectural integration. If these facilities are redesigned to architecturally blend with the landscape, the applicant would be able to utilize the facilities as a collocation site that would provide siting opportunities for other carriers and additional revenue stream for ATC. Reasonable height increases could be considered as part of the review for the new facilities. However, the upper portions of some of these poles are already not being utilized, which substantiates that they can be reduced in height.

Finally, staff has worked very closely with the industry over the past 17 years and more particularly over the past seven years with industry representatives on the Telecommunication Issues Committees (TIC) 1 and 2. Those participating representatives were selected by the industry and although not all carriers were represented at the table, the TIC representatives conducted periodic informational meetings to discuss and update the non-participating carriers on the dialogue between the public, staff and the industry. It is well known that San Diego has not permitted monopolies in at least 10 years. Staff has been very clear with all of the carriers that monopolies were being phased out. Sprint Nextel and Verizon are both experienced with the City policies and regulations pertaining to wireless communication facilities and neither company has proposed a monopole in the past 10 years. The previous Communication Antenna regulations (141.0405-Attachment I) were in effect for more than seven years and architectural integration was the basis upon which they were developed.

Process 4 – Planning Commission Decision

30th Place – CUP No. 296127/PPD No. 452327. The 130 foot high monopole and 500 square foot equipment shelter is located at 797 1/3 30th Place (Attachments F-1,2). The property is zoned MF-3000 and is within the Southeastern San Diego Community Plan (Attachment F-3). The monopole currently has one tenant, Verizon, which has 15 panel

antennas, an omni antenna and eight microwave dishes (Attachment X). The original CUP (84-0469) was approved November 20, 1984 by the City Council and did not specify the number of allowed antennas (Attachment F-8). The facility, as it exists, complies with the development regulations for the MF-3000 zone with the exception of the 30 foot height limit, thus the requirement for the SDP. To the south, east and west, there are single unit residential uses and Highway-94 is immediately to the north (Attachment F-1). This project poses a significant visual impact to the heavily traveled Highway-94 and to the surrounding communities of Southeastern San Diego and Golden Hill as it is the highest feature on the horizon. As such, the project is classified as a major telecommunication facility and requires a CUP.

Aviation – CUP No. 296155/PDP No. 296156. The 130 foot high monopole and 550 square foot equipment shelter is located at 6770 Aviation Drive (Attachments G-1,2). The property is zoned RS-1-7 and is designated for Low-Density Residential in the Skyline Paradise Hills Community Plan (Attachment G-3). The monopole currently has one tenant, Verizon, which has 28 antennas and seven microwave dishes. The CUP (84-0472) was approved on November 20, 1984 by the City Council (Attachment G-8). The facility, as it exists, complies with the development regulations for the RS-1-7 zone with the exception of the 30 foot height limit, thus the requirement for the PDP. The site is situated prominently on a hilltop surrounded by single unit residential homes (Attachment G-1). The site supported a City water tank at one time, but now is home to three monopoles, including the American Tower facility (Attachment G-6). The City currently has a 105 foot high monopole supporting city communication equipment and also, T-Mobile as a tenant. The third monopole belongs to Nextel and it is 90 feet high. It expired on June 1, 2005. Nextel is currently in the review process with a proposal to replace the tower with a 50 foot high faux tree, which will be used as a collocation facility with Sprint.

During the review of this project, staff requested ATC to collaborate with the other carriers, as well as the City to develop a collocation facility that complied with current regulations. The solution American Tower devised consisted of a 180 foot high steel lattice tower, which would support all of the existing carriers as well as any new carriers. After reviewing the design, staff decided separate facilities at a lower scale would be more appropriately sited and better able to integrate into this hilltop site. All three existing monopoles are visible to the surrounding community. This project, like the other two towers, is classified as a major telecommunication facility and does not conform to the Communication Antenna regulations due to the lack of integration into the environment and the proximity to the other two major telecommunication facilities.

The intent of a PDP is to encourage imaginative and innovative planning and to assure that the development achieves the purpose and intent of the applicable land use plan and that it would be preferable to what would be achieved by strict conformance with the regulations. These two monopoles do not meet the purpose or the intent of the PDP regulations. Similar to the other five appealed monopoles, these monopoles do not comply with the Communication Antenna regulations.

Process 5 – Planning Commission Recommendation to City Council

Mt. Ada – CUP No.292627/SDP No. 450714. The 145 foot high monopole and 572 square foot equipment shelter is located at 6426 Mt. Ada Road (Attachments H-1,2). The property is zoned CC-1-3 and is designated for Commercial Community Core in the Clairemont Mesa Community Plan (Attachment H-3). The monopole currently has one tenant, Verizon, and supports two separate racks of antennas totaling 30 panel antennas and three microwave dishes (Attachment H-6). The site also contains a generator. The original CUP (83-0629), issued to Pac Tel Mobile, permitted a 145 foot high pole and a 572 square foot equipment shelter, but did not specify the number of antennas. It was approved by the City Council on November 20, 1984 (Attachment H-9). Surrounding uses include multi-unit residential units to the south and commercial uses to the east, west and north. Large residential subdivisions exist beyond the multi-unit residential to the south and there is an elementary school approximately 500 feet to the east of the project site (Attachment H-1). The tower poses a significant visual impact to travelers along Balboa Avenue and to the residential areas surrounding the facility. Because of the flat topography, it can be viewed from great distances around the community and is therefore classified as a major telecommunication facility.

The Clairemont Height Limitation Overlay zone does not permit structures over 30 feet in height without City Council approval of an SDP. This overlay zone was originally applied to the bay view areas in Clairemont, but in 1997, it was extended to cover all of the Clairemont Mesa community. An SDP is a special permit used when a proposed development would have a significant impact on the surrounding area. The intent is to ensure that the development would not adversely affect the community plan and to ensure that all development regulations are met. Neither the SDP findings nor the supplemental findings that pertain specifically to Clairemont Mesa can be made in the affirmative.

DISCUSSION

Ten years ago, the City imposed expirations with most CUP's including telecom CUP's in order to reassess the technology and other changing circumstances that would occur over the ensuing years. Since the original approvals of these CUP's, many changes have taken place with regard to wireless facilities within the City of San Diego. In 1994, the City adopted Council Policy 600-43, which identified the general policies relevant to the aesthetics of this new emerging technology. In 2000, the language in Council Policy 600-43 regarding aesthetics, was codified when the Land Development Code was adopted. During that time, the City Council appointed a task force, the Telecommunication Issues Committee (TIC) comprised of three industry representatives and three community members to analyze issues associated with wireless facilities and report back with recommendations to address concerns over location and aesthetics. No sooner did the report come out and the City Council requested TIC2 to reconvene to analyze existing nationwide wireless policies to address specific controversial issues identified by a local activist group. Altogether, TIC

1 and 2 met over a period of five years. During that time, they rewrote Council Policy and the City's wireless ordinance to address the major controversial issues associated with these types of facilities. They reported to Land Use and Housing four times, twice to Planning Commission and altogether, four reports were made to City Council. The new regulations recently received Coastal Commission certification and became effective for new projects submitted after April 11, 2007.

These projects fall under the previous regulations, Section 141.0405, Communication Antennas, which also require architectural and visual integration of wireless facilities (Attachment I). Assessment letters were provided to the applicant explaining that the project sites needed to be redesigned in order to comply with these regulations. Revisions were not submitted and the applicant has agreed to go forward to a public hearing to present technical evidence demonstrating why the facility could not be modified.

These monopolies were established as the foundation for the development of the carriers' networks. Subsequent sites were developed based on these locations and the technological contributions these sites provided to the network. The decision makers were concerned about the unsightly visual impacts these facilities had on the landscape of the city, but at the time the technology was too new and neither the decision makers, staff, nor the industry were aware of design opportunities that could be employed to mitigate the appearance. As a consequence, the decision makers inserted a ten or twenty-year expiration into the permits to coincide with the anticipated changes in technology so that the facilities could be redesigned to comply with the current regulations in effect. Those CUP contracts were signed by each of the permittees and although the permittees have changed, the CUP runs with the land and ATC is subject to the original CUP contract. The permits contained conditions regarding removal of the facilities upon expiration unless a new application in compliance with current regulations

Since submitting these applications, ATC, along with other representatives of the wireless industry, met with the Mayor's Office to address several significant issues, including developing design guidelines, ensuring consistent processing and developing a renewal process for towers as well as building collocations. The industry was told that the Code does not have provisions for extensions and that was not something that could be pursued at this point since the new wireless ordinance was still not in effect. Consideration of such a measure would be analyzed one year after the effective date of the ordinance at which time staff is scheduled to report back to the City Council, therefore, it would not have a bearing on the outcome of these permits. Additionally, staff along with industry input did develop design guidelines that are now posted to the City's website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/industry/pdf/telecomguide.pdf>.

ATC has indicated that in order to accommodate any reductions in height to their facilities, they would be forced to install additional sites in residential areas. The reality is that Council Policy 600-43 requires an applicant to demonstrate that a facility could not be located in one of three preferred land use categories that are more favorable for these types of uses. Residentially used properties are the least preferred and as such it would be difficult to establish that there are not any non-residentially used sites available for their use. The uses of non-residentially used property as well as

the public right-of-way are both options that would have to be explored before residential property would be considered. Additionally, Kearny Villa and Verus Street do not utilize the upper portions of their poles, demonstrating that those facilities, in particular, could be reduced in height.

Community Plan Analysis:

With the exception of the Mid-City Communities Plan, which recommends using all available means to conceal communication antennas from view, neither the City of San Diego Progress Guide and General Plan nor any of the other effected community plans contain goals, objectives, or recommendations that specifically address wireless telecommunications facilities and their placement within the respective communities. Many of the Plans do, however, contain other elements such as Urban Design that address the enhancement of the physical environment, visual appearance and identity through aesthetic improvements. Monopoles and other non-integrated structures do not comply with these policies and would therefore adversely affect the goals, objectives and recommendations contained within the specific plans.

Conclusion:

Staff has reviewed each of the requests for these expired facilities and has determined that none of them comply with the Communication Antenna regulations, the SDP or PDP regulations or with Council Policy 600-43. Each of these facilities contributes to a significant visual impact in the community in which it is located. American Tower has declined to modify any of the projects to comply with the regulations to minimize visibility by integrating the facilities into the landscape and as such, the findings to support the projects cannot be made and staff is unable to recommend approval of the projects. Therefore staff recommends that the Planning Commission uphold the decision of the Hearing Officer and deny the five Process 3 CUP's; deny the two Process 4 CUP/PDP's; and recommend denial to the City Council of the one Process 5 CUP/SDP.


ALTERNATIVE

Continue these projects for a period of four weeks in order to allow staff time to prepare draft permits to Approve CUP No.'s 289921 (Verus Street), 289973 (Yolanda Avenue), 290030 (Kearny Villa), 292612 (Federal Boulevard), and 357727 (Mini Storage), and CUP No. 296127/PDP No. 453612 (30th Place), and CUP No. 296155/PDP No. 296156 (Aviation), and CUP No. 292627/SDP No. 450714 (Mt. Ada), with or without modifications.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Westlake
Program Manager
Development Services Department



Karen Lynch-Ashcraft
Project Manager
Development Services Department

ESCOBAR-ECK/KLA

Attachments:

- A. Verus Street, PTS No. 90455
 - 1. Aerial Photo
 - 2. Project Location Map
 - 3. Community Plan Land Use Map
 - 4. Project Data Sheet
 - 5. Project Plans
 - 6. Photos
 - 7. Otay Mesa Nestor Community Planning Committee Recommendation
 - 8. Draft Resolution (CUP Denial)
 - 9. CUP 94-0471
 - 10. Notice of Public Hearing
 - 11. Appeal Application
 - 12. Ownership Disclosure Statement

- B. Yolanda Avenue, PTS No. 90475
 - 1. Aerial Photo
 - 2. Project Location Map

3. Community Plan Land Use Map
4. Project Data Sheet
5. Project Plans
6. Photos
7. Kearny Mesa Community Planning Group Recommendation
8. Serra Mesa Planning Group Recommendation
9. Draft Resolution (CUP Denial)
10. CUP 94-0527
11. Notice of Public Hearing
12. Appeal Application
13. Ownership Disclosure Statement

C. Kearny Villa, PTS No. 90486

1. Aerial Photo
2. Project Location Map
3. Community Plan Land Use Map
4. Project Data Sheet
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9. CUP 94-0479
10. Notice of Public Hearing
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D. Federal Boulevard, PTS No. 91175

1. Aerial Photo
2. Project Location Map
3. Community Plan Land Use Map
4. Project Data Sheet
5. Project Plans
6. Photos
7. City Heights Area Planning Committee Recommendation
8. Draft Resolution (CUP Denial)
9. CUP 94-0627
10. Notice of Public Hearing
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E. Mini Storage, PTS No. 107501

1. Aerial Photo
2. Project Location Map

3. Community Plan Land Use Map
4. Project Data Sheet
5. Project Plans
6. Photos
7. Draft Resolution (CUP Denial)
8. CUP 94-0330-12
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10. Appeal Application
11. Ownership Disclosure Statement

F. 30th Place, PTS No. 92067

1. Aerial Photo
2. Project Location Map
3. Community Plan Land Use Map
4. Project Data Sheet
5. Project Plans
6. Photos
7. Draft Resolution (CUP Denial)
8. CUP 84-0469
9. Notice of Public Hearing
10. Ownership Disclosure Statement

G. Aviation, PTS No. 92076

1. Aerial Photo
2. Project Location Map
3. Community Plan Land Use Map
4. Project Data Sheet
5. Project Plans
6. Photos
7. Draft Resolution (CUP Denial)
8. CUP 84-0472
9. Notice of Public Hearing
10. Ownership Disclosure Statement

H. Mt. Ada, PTS No. 91178

1. Aerial Photo
2. Project Location Map
3. Community Plan Land Use Map
4. Project Data Sheet
5. Project Plans
6. Photos
7. Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee Recommendation
8. Draft Resolution (CUP Denial)

- 9. CUP 83-0629
- 10. Notice of Public Hearing
- 11. Ownership Disclosure Statement

- I. SDMC Section 101.0405
- J. SDMC Section 101.0510
- K. Expiration Conditions
- L. ATC/Verizon/Sprint Nextel Corporate Listing
- M. Quick Glance Project Description

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