Small Wireless Facilities
Within City Right-of-Way

“Small Cell” (micro) wireless telecommunications facilities are smaller antenna installations that support existing “Large Cell” (macro) wireless telecommunications facilities and improve speed and capacity within denser urban areas. The deployment of “Small Cell” facilities may include 5G technology. To support the implementation of “Small Cell” facilities, the following processes, guidelines and standards shall be adhered to prior to installation and maintenance of wireless communications facilities within the City of Poway public right-of-way. Wireless communications facilities within the City of Poway public right-of-way shall comply with the City of Poway General Plan, Specific Plans, Municipal Code and Wireless Communications Facility Policy and all other applicable law. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- The City of Poway Wireless Communications Facilities Policy (“Policy”) shall be adhered to in all instances, unless any portion of the Policy is expressly preempted by federal law, in which case, any preempted portion shall be severable from the remaining portions of the Policy, which remain in full force and effect.
- Telecommunication facilities shall be screened and/or designed to match existing street infrastructure (Reference General Plan Goal 1; Policy A).
- Telecommunication facilities shall not be located on overhead utility poles or lines carrying less than 34.5 KV (Reference General Plan Goal 1; Policy A; Strategy 5).
- Telecommunication facilities shall avoid scenic areas, prominent vistas, open space areas, mountains, hillsides and prominent ridgelines to the largest extent feasible (Reference General Plan Goal IV; Policy A and Strategy 1 and 2).
- Telecommunication facilities replacing street lights within the public right-of-way shall comply with street lighting regulations (Reference Municipal Code Title 13).
- Telecommunication facilities within the public right-of-way shall require public right-of-way permits and an encroachment removal agreement (Reference Municipal Code Title 12).
- Telecommunications facilities within the public right-of-way shall require approval of a minor development review permit from the Director of Development Services if the facilities include a surface-mounted cabinet with a dimension greater than 36 inches, or where more than one cabinet of any size is located closer than 100 feet to another cabinet of any size. Exempt from this requirement are facilities placed underground. The applicant shall comply with the “Guidelines for the Placement of Utility Facilities in the Public Rights-of-Way” (Reference Municipal Code Chapter 17.52).
- A master and/or site lease agreement is required for all wireless telecommunication facilities within the right-of-way and shall be considered a “Development Agreement” with full cost recovery of staff time required with appropriate deposit (Reference Municipal Code Chapter 17.53).

For further information contact the City of Poway Development Services Department at (858) 668-4600.