

M O T I O N

NOV 06 2007

PUBLIC WORKS

The Municipal Code regulates the placement of Above Ground Facilities and structures, cabinets, electric meters, and any other appurtenance installed for telecommunication or utility purposes above surrounding grade in the public rights-of-way.

The installation of Above Ground Facilities requires an Above Ground Facilities Permit allowing the applicant to install their equipment cabinets adjacent to private property and in the public right of way.

The proliferation of Above Ground Facilities can have a blighting effect on communities. The cabinets can be an unsightly inconvenience and can attract graffiti and other nuisances. This is especially true when dual structures are located within close proximity to one another - sometimes as close a ten feet apart, or when multiple structures are located in a single area, especially along major thoroughfares or in residential neighborhoods.

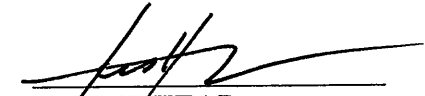
Some cities require underground installation of all these cabinets. However, currently, the City of Los Angeles requires that installations be placed underground in only a limited number of areas, as follows (LAMC section 62.03.2):

- City Planning Specific Plans
- Historical Preservation Overlay Zones
- Areas adjoining historic sites as identified by the City Planning Department
- Open Space Zones
- Scenic Highways as designated by the City Planning Department
- Pedestrian Oriented Districts
- Community Design Overlay Districts

In most areas of the City these utility boxes are not required to be installed underground and the result is a proliferation of unsightly equipment cabinets which unnecessarily clutter our parkways and neighborhoods when they could otherwise be installed below ground.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance to require below grade installation Citywide of all structures, cabinets, electric meters, and any other appurtenance installed for telecommunication or utility purposes in the public rights-of-way; and to further require that existing above ground facilities be required to be re-installed underground by a permittee when they are replaced or exteriorly altered.

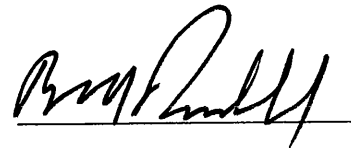
PRESENTED BY:



 JOSE HUIZAR
 Councilman, 14th District

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SECONDED BY:



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