

FEB 16 2007

PUBLIC WORKS
ARTS, PARKS,
HEALTH & AGING

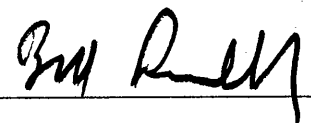
MOTION

Section 62.03.2 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code regulates the ~~procedures~~ relative to the installation and maintenance of Above Ground Facilities (AGF). As defined in the Municipal Code, AGF include structures, cabinets, electric meters, and any other appurtenance installed for telecommunication or utility purposes above surrounding grade in the public rights-of-way. The City requires that all AGF be approved by the Cultural Affairs Commission and that when feasible, landscaping should be installed to camouflage the AGF in order to create an aesthetically pleasing appearance. The exterior of the AGF must also be coated with anti-graffiti paint and the owners must submit a Graffiti Mitigation Plan detailing how the AGF owner will maintain the AGF free from graffiti and other defacements, such as stickers and posters.

Despite the requirement to maintain AGF free from graffiti, AGF are a constant target for graffiti. In addition, there is an abundance of AGF which are a constant source of blight throughout our communities. Other cities across the State and the County have developed community beautification programs that specifically target AGF. Through a Request for Proposal process, many cities have hired artists to paint images on utility boxes and have found that it not only reduces the occurrence of graffiti, but it is also a mechanism for beautifying neighborhoods. Through these programs, plain AGF are transformed into works of art by local community artists which reflect the culture of the surrounding neighborhoods. The City should explore the feasibility of undertaking a similar program aimed at reducing graffiti and beautifying neighborhoods by utilizing artists and underserved or troubled youth to transform AGF into community art pieces.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City Council instruct the Cultural Affairs Department, in consultation with the Bureau of Engineering and the Office of the City Attorney, to report on the feasibility of amending the Above Ground Facilities Ordinance, Section 63.03 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, to require that all Above Ground Facilities have an aesthetic art component.

PRESENTED BY: 
ERIC GARCETTI
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: 

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