



Los Angeles County  
Department of Regional Planning

*Planning for the Challenges Ahead*



Richard J. Bruckner  
Director

November 2, 2010

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Marc Myers  
BCI Communications, Inc.  
3 Via Hacienda  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

**REGARDING: PROJECT NUMBER R2005-02849-(1)  
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 200900152**

Dear Applicant:

Hearing Officer Mitch Glaser, by his action of November 2, 2010, **APPROVED** the above described project and entitlements. The attached documents contain the Hearing Officer's findings and conditions relating to the approval. Please carefully review each condition. Condition No. 3 requires that the permittee file an affidavit accepting the conditions before the grants becomes effective.

The applicant or and other interested person may appeal the Hearing Officer's decision to the Regional Planning Commission at the office of the Commission secretary, Room 1350, Hall of Records, 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. Please contact the Commission secretary for the appeal procedures and fee at (213) 974-6409. **The appeal period for this project will end at the 5:00 p.m. on November 16, 2010.** Any appeal must be delivered in person to the commission secretary by this time. If no appeal is filed during the specified period, the Hearing Officer's action is final.

Upon completion of the appeal period, please notarize the attached acceptance forms and **hand deliver** this form and any other required fees or materials to the planner assigned to your case. Please **make an appointment** with the case planner to assure that processing will be completed expeditiously.

For further information on appeal procedures or any other matter pertaining to these approvals, please contact Dean Edwards of the Zoning Permits I Section at (213) 974-6443 or [dedwards@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:dedwards@planning.lacounty.gov). Our office hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. We are closed on Fridays.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING  
Richard J. Bruckner  
Director

Mark Child, Supervising Regional Planner  
Zoning Permits I Section

Enclosures: Findings and Conditions, Affidavit (Permittee's Completion)

c: DPW (Building and Safety); Zoning Enforcement

MC:de

# **FINDINGS AND ORDER OF THE HEARING OFFICER COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**PROJECT NUMBER R2005-02849-(1)  
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 200900152**

## **REQUEST**

The applicant, Clearwire is requesting a conditional use permit to authorize the construction, operation and maintenance of a wireless telecommunications facility (WTF).

**HEARING DATE:** November 2, 2010

## **PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HEARING OFFICER**

A duly noticed public hearing was held on November 2, 2010 before Hearing Officer, Mitch Glaser. The applicant's agent, Marc Myers presented testimony in favor of the proposed project. There were no speakers from the public for this case. There being no further testimony, the Hearing Officer closed the public hearing and approved the permit.

## **FINDINGS**

1. The proposed project consists of a 56 foot pole disguised as palm tree (as measured to the top of the fronds) with three panel antennas and three parabolic antennas mounted at 52 feet high. The monopalm and an equipment cabinet with a GPS antenna mounted on it will be located within a 285 square foot lease area that is enclosed by a gated six foot high cement block wall. An electrical meter will be mounted to the wall of the existing building located north of the lease area.
2. The subject property is located at 1414 Valinda Avenue in the unincorporated community of Valinda and Puente Zoned District.
3. The .51 acre subject property is relatively flat, minimally landscaped and developed with a church, eight space parking lot and monument sign near the west property boundary. Vehicle access is off of Valinda Avenue.
4. The applicant considered two existing WTFs within .40 mile of the project site and deemed them infeasible for co-location.
5. The Countywide General Plan land use designation of the subject property is Low Density Residential. There are no policies in the Plan that specifically prohibit, discourage or limit the use of WTFs. The proposed project is consistent with the Countywide General Plan.
6. Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code (Zoning Ordinance) does not specify WTF as a use. Similar uses, such as radio/television stations/towers, are subject to permit.
7. No comments regarding this project were received from the public
8. The maximum height of the proposed facility is 56 feet (as measured to the top of the fronds of the monopalm). Pursuant to Section 22.28.120, the maximum allowable height of structures located in the C-1 Zone is 35 feet. Pursuant to Section 22.56.200, the Hearing Officer has prescribed 56 foot height limit for this project.
9. The subject property is surrounded by the following land uses:  
North: Single-family Residence  
East: Single-family Residence  
South: Gas Station  
West: Shopping Center
10. The proposed facility should not have significant adverse visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood/area because it will be disguised as a palm tree.

11. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 22.60.174 and 22.60.175 of the County Code, the community was appropriately notified of the public hearing by mail, newspaper and property posting.
12. To assure continued compatibility between the use of the subject property allowed by this grant and surrounding land uses, the Hearing Officer determines that it is necessary to limit the term of the grant to 15 years and require eight inspections.
13. The location of the documents and other materials constituting the record of proceedings upon which the Hearing Officer's decision is based in this matter is at the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hall of Records, 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The custodian of such documents and materials shall be the Section Head of the Zoning Permits 1 Section, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning.

**BASED ON THE FOREGOING, THE HEARING OFFICER CONCLUDES:**

- A. That the proposed use is consistent with the adopted general plan for the area; and
- B. That the requested use at the proposed location will not adversely affect the health, peace, comfort, or welfare of persons residing or working in the surrounding area, will not be materially detrimental to the use, enjoyment, or valuation of property of other persons located in the vicinity of the site, and will not jeopardize, endanger, or otherwise constitute a menace to the public health, safety or general welfare; and
- C. That the proposed site is adequate in size and shape to accommodate the development features prescribed in Title 22 of the County Code, or as is otherwise required in order to integrate said use with the uses in the surrounding area; and
- D. That the proposed site is adequately served by highways or streets of sufficient width and improved as necessary to carry the kind and quantity of traffic such use would generate, and by other public or private service facilities as are required.

Therefore, the information submitted by the applicant and presented at the public hearing substantiates the required findings and burden of proof for a conditional use permit as set forth in Section 22.56.040 of the Los Angeles County Code.

**HEARING OFFICER ACTION**

1. I have considered the Categorical Exemption for this project and certify that it is consistent with the finding by the State Secretary for Resources or by local guidelines that this class of projects does not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. In view of the findings of fact and conclusions presented above, Conditional Use Permit 200900152 is **APPROVED**, subject to the attached conditions.

c: Hearing Officer, Zoning Enforcement, Building and Safety

MC:de

November 2, 2010

This grant authorizes the construction, operation and maintenance of a wireless telecommunications facility (WTF), subject to the following conditions of approval:

1. Unless otherwise apparent from the context, the term "permittee" shall include the applicant and any other person, corporation or other entity making use of this grant.
2. This grant shall not be effective for any purpose until the permittee, and the owner of the subject property if other than the permittee, have filed at the office of the Department of Regional Planning their affidavit stating that they are aware of and agree to accept all of the conditions of this grant, and that the conditions of the grant have been recorded as required by Condition 6 and until all required monies have been paid pursuant to Condition 9. The recorded affidavit shall be filed and the required monies shall be paid by **January 1, 2011**.
3. The permittee shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County, its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the County or its agents, officers, or employees to attack, set aside, void or annul this permit approval, which action is brought within the applicable time period of Government Code Section 65009. The County shall promptly notify the permittee of any claim, action, or proceeding and the County shall cooperate reasonably in the defense. If the County fails to promptly notify the permittee of any claim action or proceeding, or if the County fails to cooperate fully in the defense, the permittee shall not thereafter be responsible to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the County.
4. In the event that any claim, action, or proceeding as described above is filed against the County, the permittee shall within ten days of the filing pay the Department of Regional Planning an initial deposit of \$5,000, from which actual costs shall be billed and deducted for the purpose of defraying the expenses involved in the department's cooperation in the defense, including but not limited to, depositions, testimony, and other assistance to permittee or permittee's counsel. The permittee shall also pay the following supplemental deposits, from which actual costs shall be billed and deducted:
  - a. If during the litigation process, actual costs incurred reach 80 percent of the amount on deposit, the permittee shall deposit additional funds sufficient to bring the balance up to the amount of the initial deposit. There is no limit to the number of supplemental deposits that may be required prior to completion of the litigation.
  - b. At the sole discretion of the permittee, the amount of an initial or supplemental deposit may exceed the minimum amounts defined herein.The cost for collection and duplication of records and other related documents will be paid by the permittee according to Los Angeles County Code Section 2.170.010.
5. If any provision of this grant is held or declared to be invalid, the permit shall be void and the privileges granted hereunder shall lapse.
6. Prior to the use of this grant, the property owner or permittee shall **record the terms and conditions** of the grant in the office of the County Recorder. In addition, upon any transfer or lease of the property during the term of this grant, the property owner or permittee shall promptly provide a copy of the grant and its conditions to the transferee or lessee of the subject property.
7. **This grant will terminate on November 2, 2025.** Entitlement to use of the property thereafter shall be subject to the regulations then in effect. At least six (6) months prior to the expiration of this permit and in the event that the permittee intends to continue operations after such date, a new Conditional Use Permit application shall be filed with the

Department of Regional Planning. The application shall be a request for continuance of the use permitted under this grant, whether including or not including modification to the use at that time.

8. This grant shall expire unless used within two years from the date of final approval by the County. The date of final approval is the date of the approval action plus any applicable appeal period. A single one-year time extension may be requested in writing and with the payment of the applicable fee prior to such expiration date.
9. The subject property shall be maintained and operated in full compliance with the conditions of this grant and any law, statute, ordinance, or other regulation applicable to any development or activity on the subject property. Failure of the permittee to cease any development or activity not in full compliance shall be a violation of these conditions. The permittee shall deposit with the County of Los Angeles the sum of **\$1,600.00**. The deposit shall be placed in a performance fund, which shall be used exclusively to compensate the Department of Regional Planning for all expenses incurred while inspecting the premises to determine the permittee's compliance with the conditions of approval. The deposit provides for **eight (8) biennial (one every other year)** inspections. Inspections shall be unannounced.

If additional inspections are required to ensure compliance with the conditions of this grant, or if any inspection discloses that the subject property is being used in violation of any one of the conditions of this grant, the permittee shall be financially responsible and shall reimburse the Department of Regional Planning for all additional enforcement efforts necessary to bring the subject property into compliance. Inspections shall be made to ensure compliance with the conditions of this grant as well as adherence to development in accordance with the approved site plan on file. The amount charged for additional inspections shall be \$200.00 per inspection, or the current recovery cost, whichever is greater.

10. Notice is hereby given that any person violating a provision of this grant is guilty of a misdemeanor. Notice is further given that the Regional Planning Commission or a hearing officer may, after conducting a public hearing, revoke or modify this grant, if the Commission or hearing officer finds that these conditions have been violated or that this grant has been exercised so as to be detrimental to the public's health or safety or so as to be a nuisance.
11. Upon receipt of this letter, the permittee shall contact the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Los Angeles County Fire Department to determine what facilities may be necessary to protect the property from fire hazard. Any necessary facilities shall be provided as may be required by said Department.
12. All requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and of the specific zoning of the subject property must be complied with unless otherwise set forth in these conditions or shown on the approved plans.
14. All structures, walls and fences open to public view shall remain free of extraneous markings, drawings or signage that was not approved by the Department of Regional Planning. These shall include any of the above that do not directly relate to the business being operated on the premises or that do not provide pertinent information about said premises.
15. In the event of graffiti or other extraneous markings occurring, the permittee shall remove or cover said markings, drawings, or signage within 24 hours of such occurrence, weather permitting. Paint utilized in covering such markings shall be of a color that matches, as

closely as possible, the color of the adjacent surfaces. The only exceptions shall be seasonal decorations or signage provided under the auspices of a civic or non-profit organization.

16. The subject property shall be developed and maintained in substantial compliance with the plans marked Exhibit "A." If changes to the site plan are required as a result of instruction given at the public hearing, a Revised Exhibit "A" shall be submitted to the Department of Regional Planning within sixty (60) days of the date of approval for the Conditional Use Permit.
17. The facility shall be operated in accordance with regulations of the State Public Utilities Commission.
18. Said facility shall be removed if in disuse for more than six months.
19. The permittee shall provide written verification that the proposed facility's radio-frequency radiation and electromagnetic field emissions will fall within the adopted Federal Communications Commission (FCC) standards for safe human exposure to such forms of non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation when operating at full strength and capacity for the lifetime of this conditional use permit. The permittee/operator shall submit a copy of the initial report on the said facility's radio frequency emissions level, as required by the FCC requirements, to the Zoning Enforcement Section of the Department of Regional Planning. If other WTFs are located on the subject property or on adjacent parcels, a cumulative radio frequency emissions report must be submitted.
20. Insofar as is feasible, the operator shall cooperate with any subsequent applicants for WTFs in the vicinity with regard to possible co-location. Such subsequent applicants will be subject to the regulations in effect at that time.
21. Any proposed WTF that will be co-locating on the proposed facility will be required to submit the same written verification of emissions and include the cumulative radiation and emissions of all such facilities to the Zoning Enforcement Section of the Department of Regional Planning.
22. All structures shall conform to the requirements of the Division of Building and Safety of the Department of Public Works or other appropriate agency and obtain an encroachment permit if deemed necessary.
23. Low Impact Development (as defined in Section 22.52 Part 22 and Section 12.84 of the Los Angeles County Code) compliance shall be met to the satisfaction of Public Works prior to building permit issuance.
24. Security lighting, if required, shall be on motion sensors, be of low intensity, and be directed away from residential areas. No pole-mounted lighting shall be permitted on the leasehold. Exterior lighting shall be a top-shielded or hooded design intended to direct light away from adjacent parcels and prevent off-site illumination.
25. Construction and maintenance of the facility shall take place between the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday only. Emergency repairs of the facility may occur at any time.
26. The project shall be developed and maintained in substantial compliance with the approved plans marked Exhibit "A". Placement and height of all pole-mounted equipment to be in substantial conformance with that shown on said Exhibit "A". All revised plot plans must be accompanied by the written authorization of the property owner.

27. The facility must be built as depicted in the photo simulations, as presented at the public hearing and as part of the Exhibit A.
28. The operator shall provide one parking space for maintenance vehicles that shall not block access to driveways or garages and shall obey all applicable on-street parking regulations.
29. The maximum height of the facility shall not exceed 56 feet above finished grade.
30. Within 30 days of change in service provider ownership, the permittee shall provide the Zoning Enforcement Section of the Department of Regional Planning the name and contact information of the new property owner.
31. All structures, including the antenna and equipment cabinets, shall be a neutral, earth-tone color or camouflaging color to blend in and harmonize with the surroundings. The colors and materials of the surface shall not be glossy or reflective in appearance and shall be maintained in good condition at all times.
32. Said facility, including any lighting, fences, shields, cabinets, and poles shall be maintained by the operator in good repair, free from trash, debris, litter and graffiti and other forms of vandalism. Any damage from any cause shall be repaired within 30 days of discovery to prevent occurrences of dangerous conditions or visual blight.
33. The Department of Regional Planning project number, conditional use permit number and lease holder contact information shall be prominently displayed on the facility where it can be easily viewed at or near eye level.
34. Facility fencing shall conform to Zoning Ordinance requirements.
35. New equipment added to a monopalm shall be disguised and not compromise the design of the facility as a palm tree.
36. Disguised facilities shall be maintained. Weathered, faded or missing disguised parts/material must be maintained and/or replaced within 30 days of notice.

MC:de

11/2/2010

Attachments: Photo Simulation(s)