

Background Information – Resolution Recommended by the PPCC Infrastructure Committee to the PPCC Board – 2/12/26

Undergrounding Utilities.

The Infrastructure Committee has had multiple meetings with LADWP officials to discuss undergrounding of utilities and related infrastructure in Pacific Palisades. It is widely understood and acknowledged within the Palisades community that undergrounding is critical for public safety, future fire resilience and insurability. LADWP has now stated that undergrounding will take place in Pacific Palisades (as feasible), and has begun outreach (e.g., [https://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Alphabets-PR-Statement-12.15.2025.Rev1 .pdf](https://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Alphabets-PR-Statement-12.15.2025.Rev1.pdf)).

In that connection, the Committee agrees with widespread community consensus that it is generally *unacceptable to install transformer boxes necessary for undergrounding of utilities on private property of fire victims*; all such infrastructure should instead be installed underground, or, if not feasible to be placed underground, on parkways or other public-right-of way (PROW) areas. *This must be a priority.*

The Committee has discussed community consensus and preferences related to undergrounding of utilities with LADWP officials, who have indicated in response that the agency intends to develop a Master Infrastructure Plan (MIP) for Pacific Palisades, in cooperation with other key City departments. The Committee understands that the process of developing and implementing the MIP will take at least one year.

Planting of Street Trees.

Palisadians treasure our beautiful urban forest, which pre-fire included many street trees (trees planted in public areas such as the PROW) that were sadly destroyed. We appreciate the efforts of volunteer organizations such as the Palisades Forestry Committee and Palisades Beautiful to assist in planting and/or obtaining necessary permits from the City for the planting of street trees in certain PROW areas of the Palisades. While we look forward to eventual restoration of our urban forest, the Infrastructure Committee believes strongly that an *official pause of at least one-year* must be placed immediately on street tree planting in residential neighborhoods, to allow for proper planning and implementation of the MIP. Such additional planting, if it occurs before the MIP is implemented, may interfere with eventual placement of transformer boxes or other necessary above-ground infrastructure, and/or may force the removal of street trees that, unless removed, may otherwise impede placement of critical infrastructure in the PROW.

Streetlights, Poles and Wireless Telecommunications Facilities/Cell Towers.

The Committee believes that for public safety and fire resilience, all streetlights and other above-ground utility poles should be constructed and/or replaced with metal rather than wooden poles. Moreover, as to wireless telecommunications facilities: Reliable cell reception is obviously critically necessary not only for convenience but for public safety as we return and rebuild the community. Many such facilities and/or cellular towers will need to be restored or added as we continue the recovery, with necessary components (e.g., antenna arrays) required to be installed above-ground. We strongly believe that now is the time for a comprehensive redesign of wireless telecommunications facilities in Pacific Palisades, subject to controlling federal law and public safety needs. The MIP should provide for such facilities to be incorporated within the design of metal streetlights, i.e., so-called “stealth” cell towers, which are already installed throughout L.A. (one example can be seen in Pacific Palisades on Sunset Blvd. in the Riviera; https://lalights.lacity.org/connected-infrastructure/connected_city.html).

Notably, more than a decade ago PPCC established a policy providing for a Master Plan for the siting of cell towers and for providers to obtain the opinion of the community on the design of such towers. That policy has never changed (see <https://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Cell-Tower-MotionPPCC-standing-rule.pdf>). For aesthetic as well as public safety reasons, PPCC should call for the MIP to provide for metal street light poles to incorporate wireless telecommunication equipment and for community input on the design.

Prepared by Chris Spitz/PPCC At-large Rep and Reza Akef/Cmtee Chair, in connection with the 2/12/26 PPCC Board meeting (Spitz & the Infrastructure Cmtee are co-sponsors of the motion to support the Resolution)