CITY OF MALIBU
Official Press Release

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City of Malibu Releases Wireless Facilities Fact Sheet to Help Residents Stay Informed

(Malibu, CA) — The City of Malibu has released a new fact sheet and FAQ to help residents better understand wireless facility projects and the regulatory framework that governs them. The FAQ sheet is available at **www.MalibuCity.org/WirelessFacilitiesFAQ**.

"The City takes community concerns about quality of life and environmental impacts seriously," said Mayor Bruce Silverstein. "Our priority is safety first, and we encourage residents to review the FAQ to better understand the process, the City's role, and how they can participate."

As wireless infrastructure proposals can raise questions when located near homes or scenic areas, the City emphasizes that its role is to apply the law fairly and consistently. In Malibu, reliable service is especially important during Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and wildfire emergencies, when the ability to receive alerts and communicate can be lifesaving.

The federal government classifies communication infrastructure such as wireless facilities as critical infrastructure, essential for both everyday communication and emergency response. See details: **https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/nipp_commun.pdf**.

The fact sheet explains that wireless providers—not the City—select proposed facility locations. The City's responsibility is to review each application to ensure it complies with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

Federal law significantly limits local authority. If a proposed facility qualifies as an eligible facilities request under federal law (47 U.S. Code § 1455; 47 C.F.R. §1.6100), the City is legally required to approve it. Projects cannot be denied based on health concerns if they comply with federal Radio Frequency (RF) safety standards. However, Malibu does have experts that ensure radiofrequency emissions requirements meeting the federal standard, and this review is conducted prior to the issuance of any wireless permit.

Malibu has adopted a comprehensive wireless facilities ordinance, updated in 2021, that is more robust than those in many other jurisdictions. The ordinance prioritizes safety, careful siting, and design standards that reduce visual impacts, including concealment and the use of existing structures where feasible.

The City also applies a higher level of scrutiny to RF safety compliance than many jurisdictions. Rather than relying solely on statements from wireless carriers, Malibu requires detailed technical reports for proposed facilities that are reviewed by City staff. These reports are also independently reviewed by the City's RF consultant to verify compliance with federal safety standards.

Upon installation of the wireless facility, the wireless carrier is required to conduct a live RF study onsite with City staff and the City's RF consultant who ensure the test is done accurately. The live RF study results are on file with the City. This process ensures that not only is the project reviewed for compliance for federal standards prior to permit issuance,

but the built site is also in compliance following installation. Conditions of approval on any wireless permit ensure that the site must be in compliance with federal law at all times, and failure to do so would result in removal of the site.

Residents should note that receiving a mailed notice indicates a project is under review, not approved. The City encourages the public to stay informed and engaged by reviewing project materials, submitting comments, and participating in the public review process.

The FAQ is available at:
www.MalibuCity.org/WirelessFacilitiesFAQ
https://malibucity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37568/Wireless-Fact-Sheet-and-FAQ_3202026

To view pending wireless facility applications and participate in the public process, visit: **https://www.malibucity.org/1041/Pending-WCF-Applications**.

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23825 Stuart Ranch Road • Malibu, California 90265-4861
Phone (310) 456-2489 • Fax (310) 456-3356 • MalibuCity.org

Contact: Media Information Office, City of Malibu
Phone: 310-456-2489
Email: PIO@malibucity.org

City of Malibu | 23825 Stuart Ranch Rd | Malibu, CA 90265 US

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