



TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY INFORMATION HANDOUT

Appendix A

Fees: See [Fee Schedule](#)

Appendix: Detailed Information for each type of Telecommunications Facility

Exempt Telecommunications Facility

Definition

"Telecommunications facility - exempt" includes but is not limited to, the following unless located within a recognized Historic District:

1. A single ground or building mounted receive-only radio or television antenna including any mast, for the sole use of the tenant occupying the residential parcel on which the radio or television antenna is located; with an antenna height not exceeding twenty-five feet;
2. A ground or building mounted citizens band radio antenna including any mast, if the height (post and antenna) does not exceed thirty-five feet;
3. A ground, building, or tower mounted antenna operated by a federally licensed amateur radio operator as part of the Amateur Radio Service, if the height (post and antenna) does not exceed thirty-five feet;
4. A ground or building mounted receive-only radio or television satellite dish antenna, which does not exceed thirty-six inches in diameter, for the sole use of the resident occupying a residential parcel on which the satellite dish is located; provided the height of said dish does not exceed the height of the ridgeline of the primary structure on said parcel.
5. All citizens band radio antenna or antenna operated by a federally licensed amateur radio operator as part of the Amateur Radio Service which existed at the time of the adoption of this chapter (September, 1996).
6. Mobile services providing public information coverage of news events of a temporary nature.
7. Hand-held devices such as cell phones, business-band mobile radios, walkie-talkies, cordless telephones, garage door openers and similar devices as determined by the planning director.
8. City government owned and operated receive and/or transmit telemetry station antennas for supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems for water, flood alert, traffic control devices and signals, storm water, pump stations and/or irrigation systems, with heights not exceeding thirty-five feet.

Basic Requirements

Exempt facilities may be installed, erected, maintained and/or operated in any residential zoning district, except recognized historic districts, where such antennas are permitted under this title, without benefit of a building permit or other entitlement process, so long as all the following conditions are met:

1. The antenna use involved is accessory to the primary use of the property which is not a telecommunications facility;
2. In a residential zone, no more than one support structure for licensed amateur radio operator, satellite dish eight feet or less in diameter, is allowed on the parcel;
3. Sufficient anti-climbing measures have been incorporated into the facility, as needed, to reduce potential for trespass and injury.

City of Petaluma Planning Division

11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952
Hours: 8 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 5 pm,
Mondays through Thursdays. Closed Fridays.

T: (707) 778-4470

For faster responses, please e-mail us at:
petalumaplanning@cityofpetaluma.org

URL: <https://cityofpetaluma.org/departments/planning/>

Mini Telecommunications Facility

Definition

"Telecommunication facility - mini" is an attached wireless communication facility consisting, but not limited to, the following unless located on a structure recognized as a historic landmark:

1. A single ground or building mounted receive-only radio or television antenna including any mast, for the sole use of the tenant occupying the parcel on which the radio or television antenna is located; with an antenna height not exceeding fifty feet;
2. A ground or building mounted citizens band radio antenna including any mast, if the height (tower, support structure, post and antenna) does not exceed seventy feet;
3. A ground, building, or tower mounted antenna operated by a federally licensed amateur radio operator as part of the Amateur Radio Service, if the height (post and antenna) does not exceed seventy feet.
4. A ground or building mounted receive-only radio or television satellite dish antenna, with diameter exceeding thirty-six inches but less than eight feet in diameter, for the sole use of the resident occupying a residential parcel on which the satellite dish is located; provided the height of said dish does not exceed the height of the ridgeline of the primary structure on said parcel.
5. Exempt telecommunication facility located within a recognized historic district.
6. City owned and operated antennae used for emergency response services, public utilities, operations and maintenance if the height does not exceed seventy feet.

Basic Requirements

Mini facilities may be installed, erected, maintained and/or operated in any residential, commercial or industrial zoning district where such antennas are permitted under this title, upon the issuance of a building permit which has received site plan and architectural review and approval by the planning director, so long as all the following conditions are met:

1. In a commercial or industrial zone, no more than three antenna, satellite dish eight feet or less in diameter; where adequate screening, at the discretion of the planning director, is provided; and the telecommunication facilities are solely for the use of the project site tenants - location subject to the discretionary review and approval of the planning director.
2. Replacement of pre-existing telecommunication facilities, installed under a prior approval under this chapter which is being proposed for replacement by equipment of identical or a smaller size, at the discretion of the planning director.
3. In a residential zone, where more than one but no more than three antenna or satellite dishes (three feet or less in diameter) are proposed.
4. Sufficient anti-climbing measures have been incorporated into the facility, as needed, to reduce potential for trespass and injury.

City of Petaluma Planning Division

11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Hours: 8 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 5 pm,

Mondays through Thursdays. Closed Fridays.

T: (707) 778-4470

For faster responses, please e-mail us at:

petalumaplanning@cityofpetaluma.org

URL: <https://cityofpetaluma.org/departments/planning/>

Minor Telecommunications Facility

Definition

"Telecommunication facility - minor" means any of the following:

1. Antenna which meet the definition of "mini" with the exception of the height limit.
2. Telecommunication facilities less than thirty-five feet in height and that adhere to Section 14.44.090 of Chapter 14.44 of the Petaluma Municipal Code.
3. A single ground or building mounted whip (omni) antenna without a reflector, less than four inches in diameter whose total height does not exceed thirty-five feet; including any mast to which it is attached, located on commercial and/or industrial zoned property.
4. A ground or building mounted panel antenna whose height is equal to or less than four feet and whose area is not more than four hundred eighty square inches in the aggregate (e.g., one foot diameter parabola or two feet by one and one-half foot panel) as viewed from any one point, located on commercial or industrial zoned property. The equipment cabinets shall be designed, placed and screened to be unobtrusive and effectively unnoticeable.
5. More than three antennas, satellite dishes (greater than three feet in diameter), panel antennas, or combination thereof, are proposed to be placed on the commercial or industrial parcel, including existing facilities.
6. Building mounted antennas which, in the opinion of the planning director, are unobtrusive or undetectable by way of design and/or placement on the building, regardless of number, when located on commercial or industrial zoned property.
7. Telecommunication facilities less than fifty feet in height, in compliance with the applicable sections of this chapter, located on a parcel owned by the city of Petaluma and utilized for public and/or quasi-public uses where it is found by the planning director to be compatible with the existing city uses of the property.
8. Telecommunication facilities, including multiple antennas, in compliance with the applicable sections of this chapter, located on an industrial parcel and utilized for the sole use and purpose of a research and development tenant of said parcel, where it is found by the planning director to be aesthetically compatible with the existing and surrounding structures.
9. Telecommunication facilities located on a structure recognized as a historic landmark.

Basic Requirements

Minor facilities may be installed, erected, maintained and/or operated in any commercial or industrial zoning district where such antennas are permitted under this title, upon the issuance of a minor conditional use permit, so long as all the following conditions are met:

1. The minor antenna use involved is accessory to the primary use of the property, which is not a telecommunications facility.
2. The combined effective radiated power radiated by all the antenna present on the parcel is less than one thousand five hundred watts.
3. The combined NIER levels produced by all the antennas present on the parcel do not exceed the NIER standard established in Section 14.44.290 of the Municipal Code.
4. The antenna is not situated between the primary building on the parcel and any public or private street adjoining the parcel, so as to create a negative visual impact.
5. The antenna is located outside all yard and street setbacks specified in the zoning district in which the antenna is to be located and no closer than twenty feet to any property line.
6. None of the guy wires employed are anchored within the area in front of the primary structure on the parcel.
7. No portion of the antenna array extends beyond the property lines or into the area in front of the primary building on the parcel, so as to create a negative visual impact.
8. At least ten feet of horizontal clearance exists between the antenna and any power lines, unless more clearance is required to meet CPUC standards.

City of Petaluma Planning Division

11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Hours: 8 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 5 pm,

Mondays through Thursdays. Closed Fridays.

T: (707) 778-4470

For faster responses, please e-mail us at:

petalumaplanning@cityofpetaluma.org

URL: <https://cityofpetaluma.org/departments/planning/>

9. All towers, masts and booms are made of a noncombustible material and all hardware such as brackets, turnbuckles, clips, and similar type equipment subject to rust or corrosion has been protected either by galvanizing or sheradizing after forming.
10. The materials employed are not unnecessarily bright, shiny or reflective and are of a color and type that blends with the surroundings to the greatest extent possible.
11. The installation is in compliance with the manufacturer's structural specifications and the requirements of the Uniform Building Code including Section 507. Exceptions Table SD, Table 23-24 and Section 3602, as applicable.
12. The height of the facility shall include the height of any structure upon which it is placed, unless otherwise defined within this chapter.
13. No more than two satellite dishes are allowed on the parcel, one of which may be over three feet in diameter, but no larger than eight feet in diameter, with adequate screening, at the discretion of the planning director.
14. Any ground mounted satellite dish with a diameter greater than four feet that is situated less than five times its actual diameter from adjoining property lines has screening treatments located along the antenna's non-reception window axes and low-level landscape treatments along its reception window axes.
15. Any roof mounted panel antenna with a face area greater than three and one-half square feet shall be located so as to be effectively unnoticeable.
16. Sufficient anti-climbing measures have been incorporated into the facility, as needed, to reduce potential for trespass and injury.
17. The facility is located more than seventy-five feet from any residential dwelling unit, unless recognized as an exempt facility as set forth in Section 14.44.020.S.1 of the Municipal Code.
18. No trees larger than twenty inches in diameter measured at four and one-half feet high on the tree would have to be removed.
19. Any new building(s), structure(s), control panel(s), etc. shall be effectively screened from view from off-site.
20. The site has an average cross slope of ten percent or less.
21. All utility lines to the facility from public or private streets shall be underground.
22. If located within a recognized historic district, or on a structure recognized as a historic landmark, that adequate screening has been provided.
23. The general criteria set forth in this chapter are met.

Major Telecommunications Facility

Definition

A Major facility is any other facility that does not meet the criteria of the other categories. A major Telecommunications Facility requires the approval of a major Conditional Use Permit and major Site Plan and Architectural Review approval.

City of Petaluma Planning Division

11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Hours: 8 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 5 pm,

Mondays through Thursdays. Closed Fridays.

T: (707) 778-4470

For faster responses, please e-mail us at:

petalumaplanning@cityofpetaluma.org

URL: <https://cityofpetaluma.org/departments/planning/>