

# **(d) 2. Small Cell Permitting, Deployment and Process Improvement Update**

Smart Cities and Service Improvements Committee  
September 5, 2019

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# Small Cell Update Agenda

- Timeline Review
- Deployment Numbers
- Process Improvements
- Public Engagement
- FCC August 8<sup>th</sup> decision on Health Concerns
- Next Steps

# Small Cell Update

## Timeline

- **September 2018** – Executed agreements with AT&T and Verizon
- **Fall 2018** – Initiate paced permitting 10 permits/week
- **Winter 2019** – Perform permitting with speed and predictability averaging 30 permits/week
- **June 2019** – Small Cell Team sustaining 70+ permit reviews per week balanced across three mobile carriers









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**5 permits  
per year  
2017**





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**5 permits  
per year  
2017**

**10 permits  
per week  
2018**





**5 permits  
per year  
2017**

**10 permits  
per week  
2018**

**70+ permits  
per week  
2019**



# Small Cell Team Process Improvements





# Small Cell Process Improvements

- ✓ Develop Spatial platform to share information
- ✓ Commit Resources to Field Verification & Records Research
- ✓ Digital Construction Plan Reviews
- ✓ Re-templated Designs
  - Concentrating on Site-specific Challenges
  - Site License Agreement Signature Processing



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Home

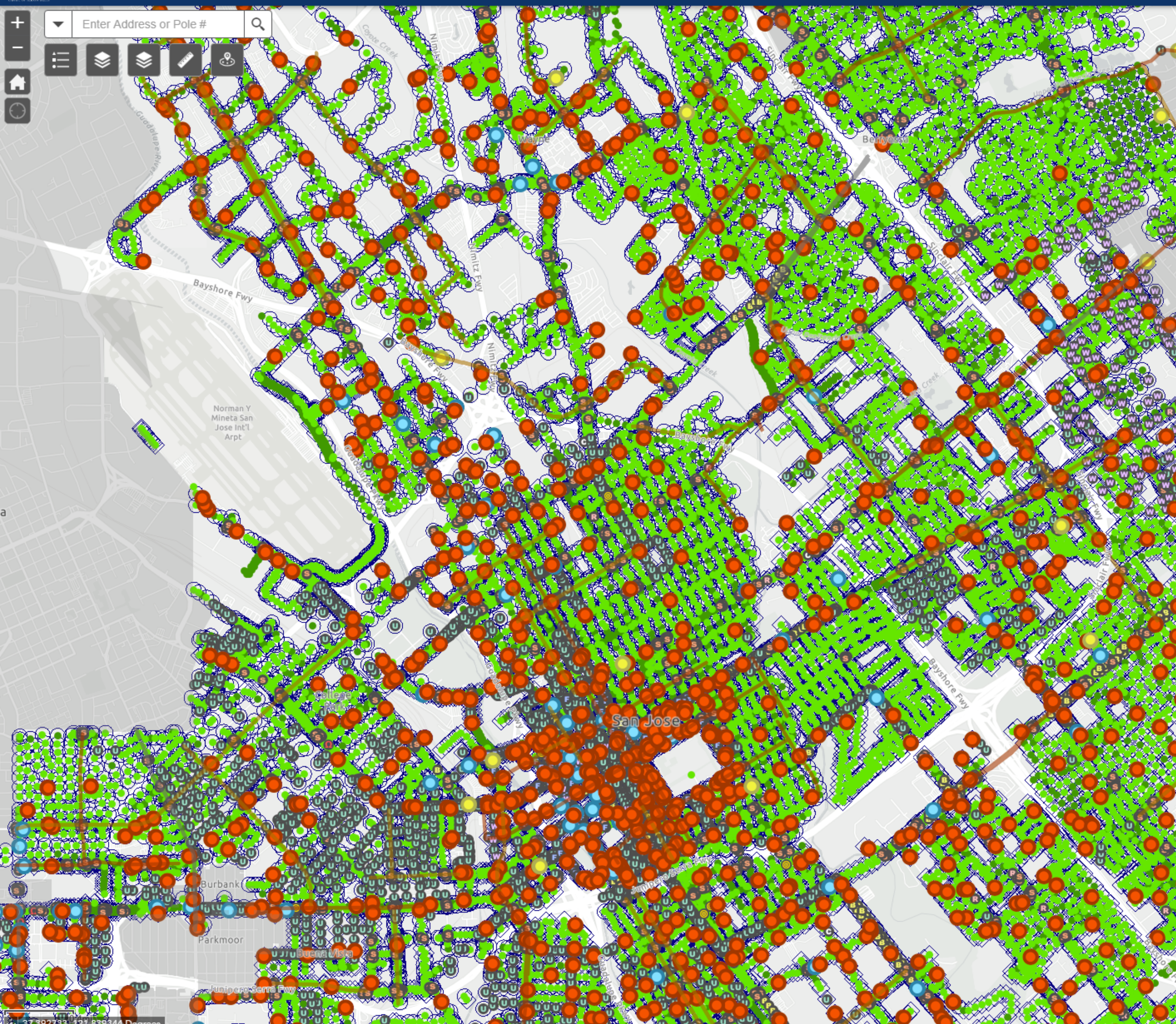
Layers

Measure

Location

▼

Q



Information

⌵

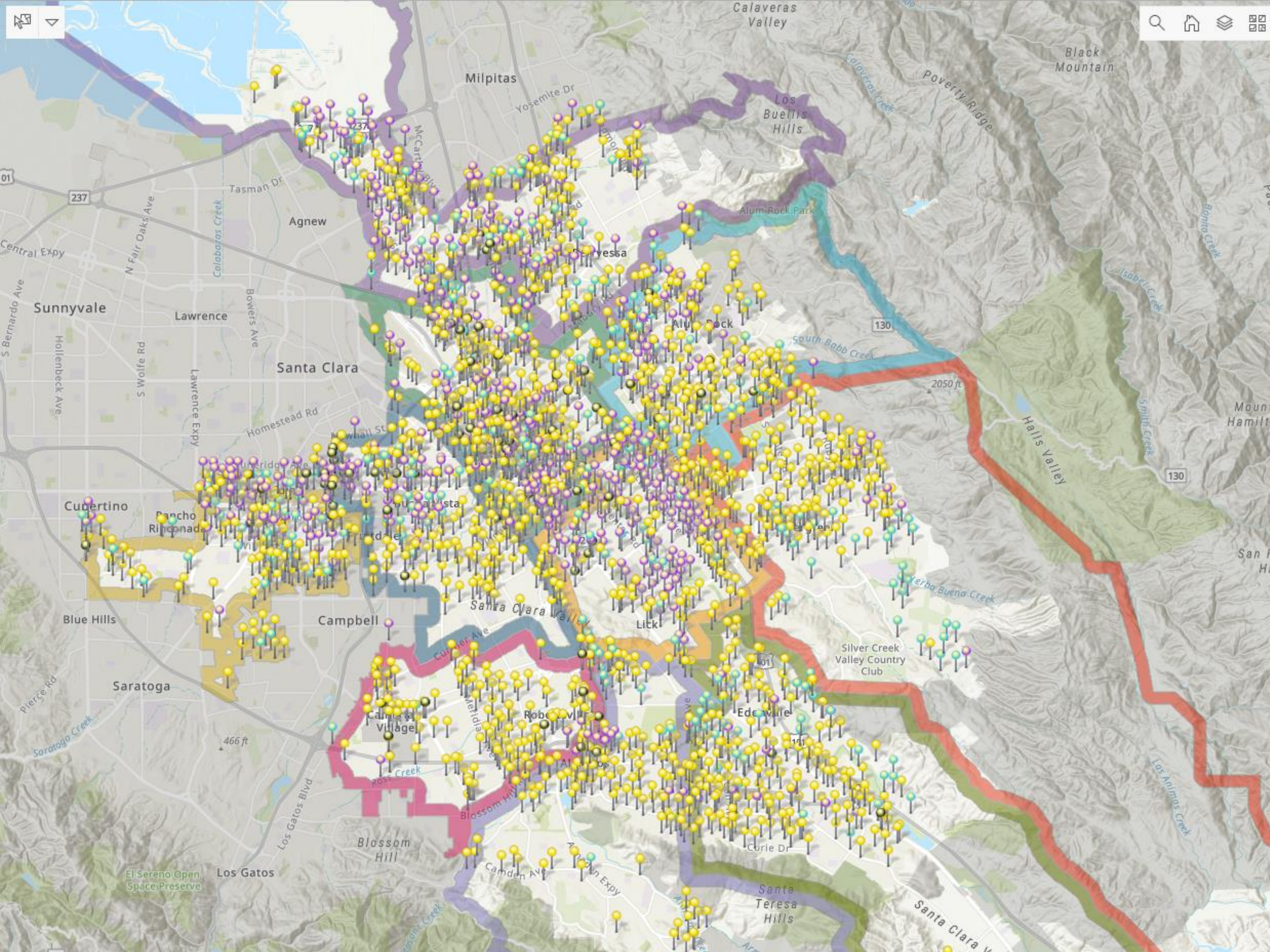
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CITY OF  
**SAN JOSE**  
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

The green dots display the potentially suitable streetlight poles for the small cell device. However, Applicant is expected to conduct thorough field verification, and strictly follow the data submission procedure the City has laid out.

Any inaccurate data submission could lengthen the screening process or result in disapproval of the proposed pole.

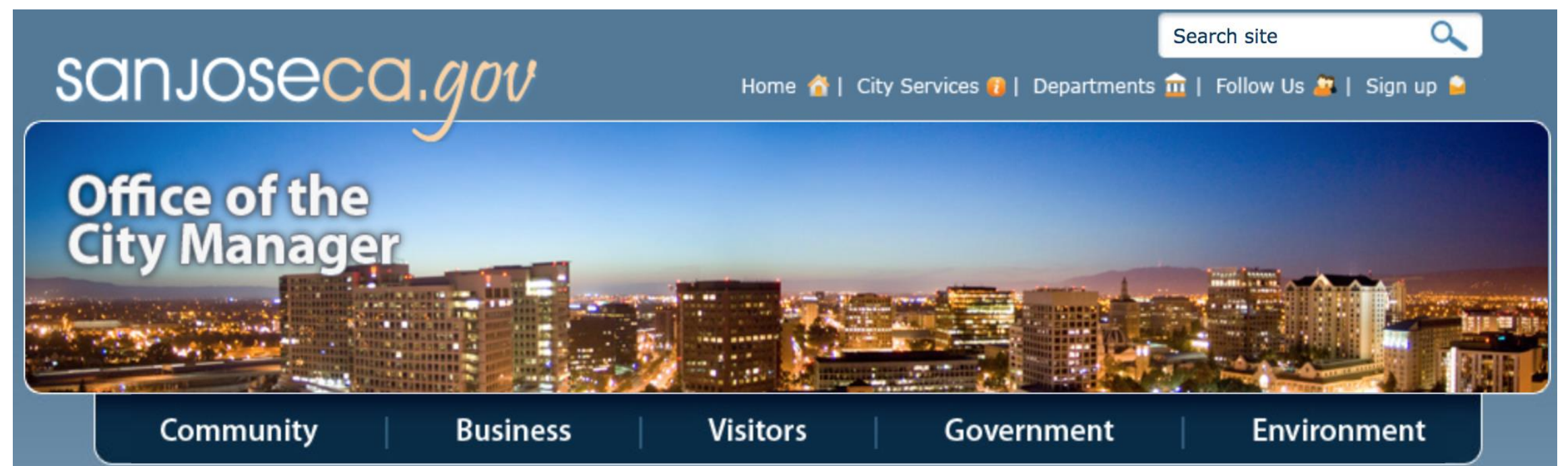






# Small Cell Team Public Engagement

[sanjoseca.gov/smallcell](http://sanjoseca.gov/smallcell)



Q: What infrastructure in the public right way is not under the city's design control?

A: The City has limited control over PG&E (wood) poles. The City is not the landlord of this private infrastructure, therefore the City's involvement is limited to safety inspection related to construction and traffic management, which is designated in sections [7901 and 7901.1](#) of the California Public Utility Code. The City is not legally able to enforce design standards on PG&E wood poles or poles managed by the [Northern California Joint Pole Association](#). Design approval, permitting, and control of these poles reside with the California Public Utilities Commission as defined by [General Order No. 95](#).

Q: How is the City working with other government entities to address safety concerns?

A: Wireless antennas are closely regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The City complies with all regulations set forth by the FCC to alleviate any potential health or safety concern. The safety of radio waves has been extensively studied and government agencies and groups that set standards continuously review this research. The approved radiated emission levels meet current accepted health and safety guidelines. Additionally, small cell antennas transmit very low levels of radio waves compared to traditional cell antennas. For more information, please refer to the [FCC's Safety FAQ](#) and the [Cancer.org](#) Safety Information page.

## Small Cell Guidelines

The City of San José partners with telecommunications companies installing small cell equipment on City-owned property to ensure there are reasonable and consistent guidelines that help streamline the permitting review and approval process. The City is committed to design standards that integrate into the existing streetlights, minimize visual impact, and remain safe and secure.

[Small Cell Permit and Design Guidelines \[April 16, 2019\]](#)

[Small Cell Screening Map](#)

Contact Information and Community Outreach  
[broadband@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:broadband@sanjoseca.gov)



# Public Engagement

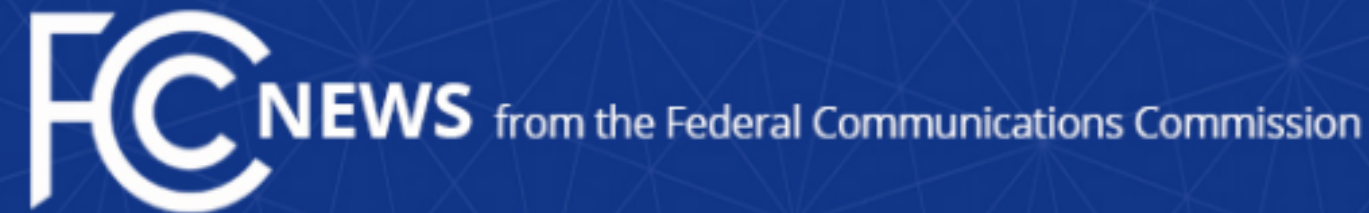
- Iterating on FAQ and flyers for field staff
- 20-Day Notice Requirement
- Location requests to mobile carriers
- Balancing time and resources
- Trainings for City Councilmember staff
- FCC pre-empts cities from denying permits due to health concerns



# FCC Decision on Health Concerns

August 8, 2019

FCC reasserted that current radio frequency protections are strong enough across 3G, 4G, and 5G technologies



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## For Immediate Release

### **CHAIRMAN PAI PROPOSES TO MAINTAIN CURRENT RADIOFREQUENCY EXPOSURE SAFETY STANDARDS**

*FCC's RF Exposure Limits for Handheld Devices are Among the  
Most Stringent in the World*

WASHINGTON, August 8, 2019—Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai shared with his colleagues today a proposal that would continue to ensure the health and safety of workers and consumers of wireless technology. Following more than six years of public input and review, the proposal would maintain the Commission's existing radiofrequency (RF) exposure limits. The United States' RF exposure limits for handheld devices are among the most stringent in the world.

The proposal would also establish a uniform set of guidelines for ensuring compliance with the limits regardless of the service or technology, replacing the Commission's current inconsistent patchwork of service-specific rules. In addition, Chairman Pai is proposing that the Commission seek comment on establishing rules formalizing its existing methods of determining compliance with the RF exposure standard for high-frequency devices.

"The FCC sets radiofrequency limits in close consultation with the FDA and other health agencies. After a thorough review of the record and consultation with these agencies, we find it appropriate to maintain the existing radiofrequency limits, which are among the most stringent in the world for cell phones," said Julius Knapp, chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology.

As Jeffrey Shuren, Director of the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Devices and Radiological Health, wrote to the FCC, "[t]he available scientific evidence to date does not support adverse health effects in humans due to exposures at or under the current limits..." and "[n]o changes to the current standards are warranted at this time."



# Small Cell Update

## Next Steps

### How Do We Reach 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Gear?

- Improve permit quality
- Deepen partnership with monthly engineering meetings
- Permit reviews sustain permit approvals week after week
- Construction challenges will evolve as more sites are permitted



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## **Questions & Feedback**