MEMORANDUM

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU 155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

DATE:

October 7, 2011

TO:

Planning Commission

FROM:

Kelly Keenan, Planner

Community Development Department

FILE NO.:

USE2011 0023

PROPOSAL:

A Conditional Use permit to remove an old antenna farm and

install one new telecommunications tower on the Capitol Building

roof.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant:

Silverbow Construction

Property Owner:

State of Alaska, Department of Administration, General Services

Property Address:

120 Fourth Street, Juneau

Legal Description:

Juneau Townsite Block 19 Lots 1 - 8

Parcel Code Number:

1-C07-0-A19-001-0

Site Size:

39,140 square feet

Zoning:

Mixed Use

Utilities:

CBJ Water and Sewer

Access:

Fourth Street

Existing Land Use:

Offices

Surrounding Land Use:

North - D-18; City Park

Northwest - Mixed Use; Fifth Street, Offices

West - D-10; Residential

Southwest - Mixed Use; Main Street, Offices, City Museum Southeast - Mixed Use; Fourth Street, Offices, Courthouse

Northeast - Mixed Use; Seward Letc Registeriou, Office Juneau

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Vicinity Map

Attachment B – Site Photo

Attachment C – Roof Plan: Demolition Attachment D – Roof Plan: New Tower

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant requests a Conditional Use permit to remove an old antenna farm on the Capitol Building roof, consisting of two towers and other accessory equipment, and to install one new 20-foot tall tower. The new tower will support telecommunications associated with Legislative activities.

BACKGROUND

While this project involves the continuation of a use currently in existence at the subject site, neither staff, nor the applicant was able to locate prior permits for the existing towers. Therefore, a Conditional Use permit is required for installation of the new tower per the Table of Permissible Uses, CBJ§49.25.300 18.300.

<u>ANALYSIS</u>

Project Site

The project site is on the roof of the Alaska State Capitol Building, which is bounded by Fourth Street, Fifth Street, Seward Street, and Main Street in Downtown Juneau (see Attachment A). The building is within a Mixed Use zoning district. The Capitol Building is five stories tall, and was constructed in 1931. The building is not located within the Downtown Historic District, but is considered an historic structure and is a focal point of Juneau's Downtown historic fabric. According to plans submitted by the applicant, the proposed installation of the new tower will not alter any architectural elements of the building façade.

The existing antenna farm consists of two towers with guy wires, cables, and other accessory telecommunications equipment. The two towers are currently visible from vantage points throughout Downtown Juneau and the adjacent neighborhoods. The exact height of the existing towers is not known, but they are estimated to be approximately 40 feet tall. The existing towers are supported by guy wires, which add to their impact on the view plane of Downtown. A photo of the existing antenna farm is provided as Attachment B.

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Project Design

The applicant's proposal includes demolishing the two existing towers at the site, as well as other accessory antennas, cabling, and conduit equipment. A roof plan, showing equipment to be demolished, is provided as Attachment C. After demolishing the two existing towers, the applicant proposes to install one new tower, in the same location as the existing tower on the southwest end of the roof.

The new tower will consist of galvanized steel members in a lattice work form. The tower will have a three-face, self-supporting design which requires no guy wires. Each face of the new tower will be 12' 7" wide at the base, and 10' 7" wide at the top. The proposed tower will be 20 feet tall initially and possibly extended to 33 feet in the future. The applicant's plans showing the proposed location and elevation of the new tower and associated new cabling are provided as Attachment D.

Traffic

After construction is completed, infrequent maintenance visits will produce negligible increases in traffic in the vicinity of the Capitol Building; probably no more than is currently required. Overall, the proposal is not expected to impact site traffic.

Parking and Circulation

Parking and circulation at the subject site is sufficient to account for the infrequent maintenance visits that may be associated with this project.

Noise

As the subject site is located within an intense urban environment, any low level of noise that might be emitted from electrical equipment associated the new tower is not expected to be noticeable or to adversely impact nearby property.

Public Health or Safety

The proposed 20-foot tall tower is currently under review through the Building permit process (pending the outcome of this Conditional Use permit case) and must meet all applicable building codes. Additionally, staff received no objections to the proposed use from the CBJ Fire, Building, and General Engineering Departments.

Towers used for telecommunication purposes can generate electromagnetic radio waves that contain levels of radiation. Radiation emissions from these structures are capped at a maximum level by the Federal Communication Committee (FCC). The Federal Government restricts municipalities from denying these types of structures based on perceived health affects. However, municipalities can require proof of compliance with FCC standards. Therefore, staff recommends a condition of

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approval requiring that the applicant submit documentation of compliance with FCC emission standards.

Habitat

The proposed project is not in the vicinity of any sensitive habitat areas.

Property Value or Neighborhood Harmony

While the existing towers on the Capitol building roof are perhaps the most visually prominent roof fixtures in the Downtown area, the use is not out of character in the neighborhood. Different types of antennas, dishes, and other telecommunications equipment exist on roofs throughout Downtown.

As discussed previously, the applicant's proposal includes removing the two existing towers on the Capitol Building Roof, and installing one new tower. While the new tower will have a wider profile than the two existing towers, the freestanding, three-face design will not require any guy wires. Based on these factors, staff assumes that the proposed project will actually serve to reduce the impact that the existing towers have on the Downtown view plane.

As of the date of this memorandum, staff has received no objections to the proposed project from nearby property owners.

In consideration of this analysis, staff believes that the proposed project will not adversely affect property value or neighborhood harmony.

Conformity with Adopted Plans

The subject site is located within Subarea 6 of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) and is in an area carrying the "Mixed Use" land use designation.

The Comp Plan provides one "Guideline and Consideration" for Subarea 6 that is particularly germane to the applicant's proposal:

Guideline and Consideration 17. Identify historic and cultural resources within the subarea. Projects that may impact historic resources identified within this subarea are to be reviewed by the Historic Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC) prior to issuance of a permit. Where new historic or cultural resources are discovered or identified, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum should be contacted immediately for documentation and technical assistance toward preservation and/or curating of the resource. The demolition or removal of historic resources should be avoided and should only occur when no other option for its preservation or relocation to a suitable site exists.

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In accordance with the above directive, staff solicited comments from HRAC on the proposed project. HRAC did not object to the installation of the new tower, and was glad to learn the project would not involve any alterations to the historic façade of the structure. HRAC also noted their appreciation of the opportunity to comment.

While the Comp Plan does not specifically address telecommunications towers, it does speak to the need for support of State Capital functions as a cornerstone of economic development:

Policy 5.2 It is the policy of the CBJ, through a cooperative effort with the State of Alaska, to plan for and support development of an attractive setting, facilities, and other services to enhance the State Capital and to strive to provide an atmosphere conducive to good leadership in the State, accessible to and supportive of all people of the State of Alaska.

Because the proposed new tower will support telecommunications associated with State functions, staff believes the project serves to implement the above policy. In consideration of this analysis, staff finds that the proposed project is consistent with the 2008 Comprehensive Plan.

FINDINGS

CBJ §49.15.330 (e)(1), Review of Director's Determinations, states that the Planning Commission shall review the Director's report to consider:

- 1. Whether the application is complete;
- 2. Whether the proposed use is appropriate according to the Table of Permissible Uses; and,
- 3. Whether the development as proposed will comply with the other requirements of this chapter.

The Commission shall adopt the Director's determination on the three items above unless it finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Director's determination was in error, and states its reasoning for each finding with particularity.

CBJ §49.15.330 (f), Commission Determinations, states that even if the Commission adopts the Director's determination, it may nonetheless deny or condition the permit if it concludes, based upon its own independent review of the information submitted at the public hearing, that the development will more probably than not:

- 1. Materially endanger the public health or safety;
- 2. Substantially decrease the value of or be out of harmony with property in the neighboring area; or,
- 3. Not be in general conformity with the comprehensive plan, thoroughfare plan, or other officially adopted plans.

Per CBJ §49.15.330 (e) & (f), Review of Director's & Commission's Determinations, the Director

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makes the following findings on the proposed development:

1. Is the application for the requested conditional use permit complete?

Yes. We find the application contains the information necessary to conduct full review of the proposed operations. The application submittal by the applicant, including the appropriate fees, substantially conforms to the requirements of CBJ Chapter 49.15.

2. Is the proposed use appropriate according to the Table of Permissible Uses?

Yes. The requested permit is appropriate according to the Table of Permissible Uses. The permit is listed at CBJ §49.25.300, Section 18.300 for the Mixed Use zoning district.

3. Will the proposed development comply with the other requirements of this chapter?

Yes. The proposed development complies with the other requirements of this chapter. Public notice of this project was provided in the September 30, 2011 and October 10, 2011 issues of the Juneau Empire's "Your Municipality" section, and a Notice of Public Hearing was mailed to all property owners within 500 feet of the subject parcel. Moreover, a Public Notice Sign was posted on the subject parcel, visible from the public Right of Way.

4. Will the proposed development materially endanger the public health or safety?

No. If approved, the proposed tower must comply with all applicable building codes. Additionally, staff received no objection to the proposed use from CBJ Fire, Engineering, and Building Departments. In consideration of this analysis, staff finds that the proposed project will not materially endanger public health or safety.

5. Will the proposed development substantially decrease the value of or be out of harmony with property in the neighboring area?

No. The proposed project will reduce the amount of equipment that currently exists within the view plane of Downtown area rooftops. In consideration of this analysis, staff finds that the proposed project will not substantially decrease the value of or be out of harmony with property in the neighboring area.

6. Will the proposed development be in general conformity with the land use plan, thoroughfare plan, or other officially adopted plans?

Yes. As discussed previously, the proposed project serves to support State Capital functions, and is therefore in conformity with the 2008 Comprehensive Plan.

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Per CBJ §49.70.900 (b)(3), General Provisions, the Director makes the following Juneau Coastal Management Program consistency determination:

7. Will the proposed development comply with the Juneau Coastal Management Program?

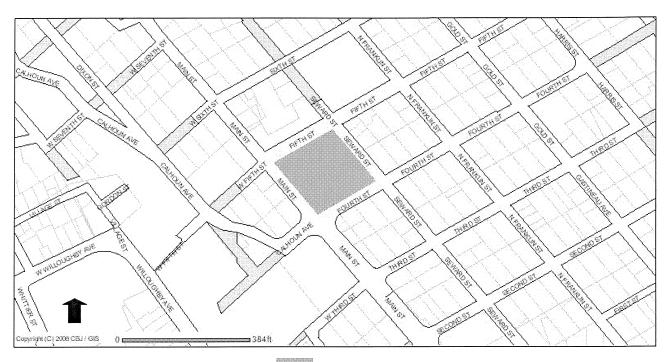
Not applicable. Staff finds that no aspect of this proposal is related to provisions of the Juneau Coastal Management Program.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Planning Commission adopt the Director's analysis and findings and grant the requested Conditional Use permit. The permit would allow removal of the existing antenna farm and installation of a new antenna farm on the Capitol Building roof. Staff recommends the following condition of approval:

1. Prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the applicant must submit to the Community Development Department documentation providing proof of compliance with FCC emission standards.

VICINITY MAP



Subject Property

SITE PHOTO

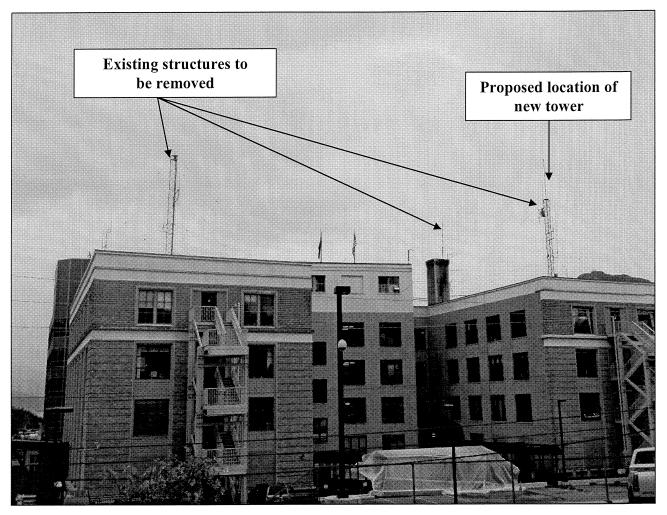
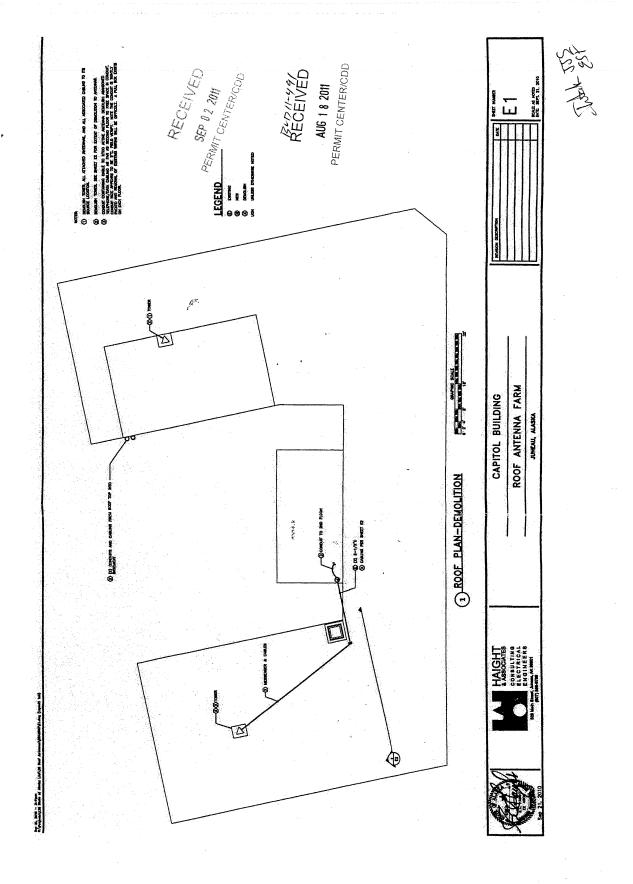
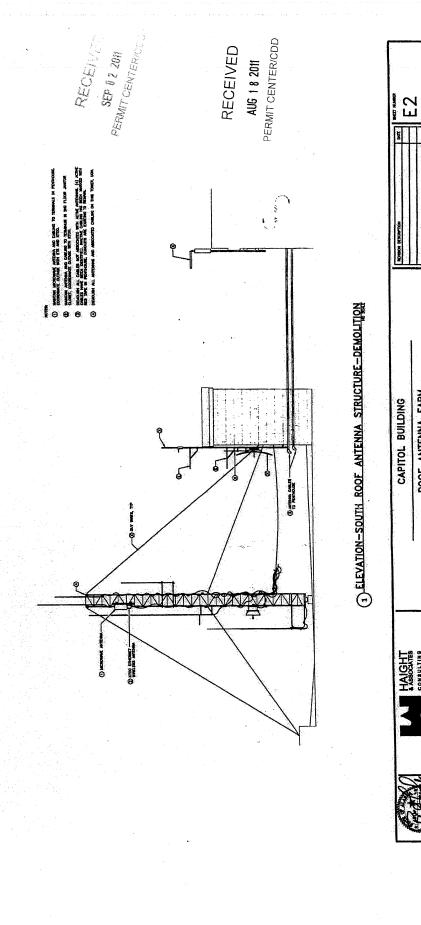


Photo taken from Fifth Street, facing the back side of the Capitol Building



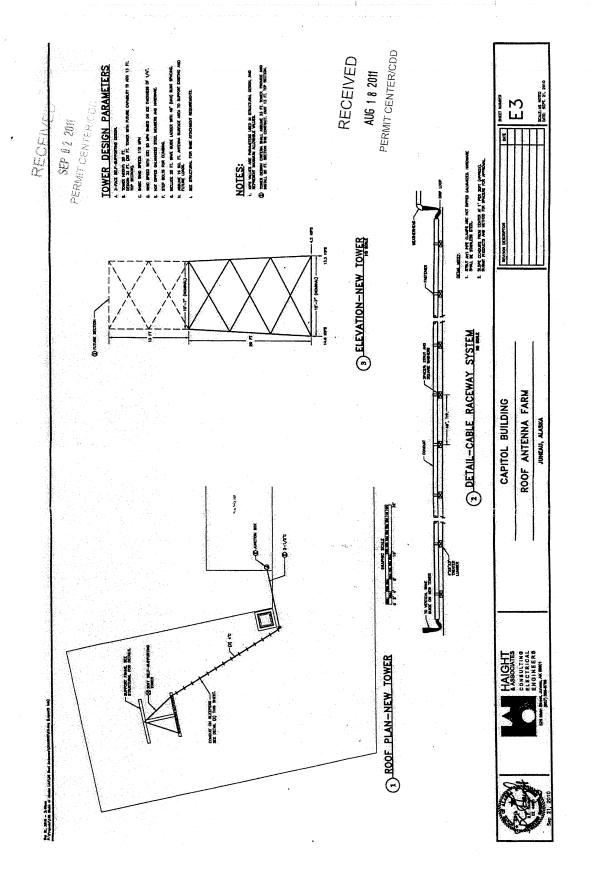
ATTACHMENT C



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SOUTH AS HOTED DATE: SEPT. 21, 2010

ROOF ANTENNA FARM



DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Project Number 535 CITY and BOROUGH of JUNEAU Data Received: 9/2//									
Project Admo (CAPITOL BUILDING ROOF ANTENINA FARIA									
Project Description EENOUS OLD ANTENNOR FURN, INSTALL NEW									
INFORMATION	ANTENNIA FARM ON TOP OF CAPITAL BUTLDING.								
	FROPERTY LOCATION. Street Address ACCTO 1 120 474 7 TUSTE AU 99801								
	Legal Description(s) of Parcel(s) (Subdivision, Survey, Block, Tract, Lot)								
	Tunian Townsik Block 17 Lots 1-8								
	LANDOWNER/LESSEE								
FO	Property Owner's Name / 1 1 1 Work Prince: Droph Teth Stori 465-3708								
Z	Mailing Address CAPITE CAPITEL JUNGAU AK								
	E-mail Address DON - TOHYSTON @LEGIS. STAFFE. AK. US								
	L'ANDOWNER/L'ESSEE GONSENT: "Required for Planning Parmils, not needed on Building/ Engineering Permils". I am (we are) the owner(s)or lesses(s) of the property subject to this application and I (we) consent as follows:	-							
}	A. This application for a land use of activity review for development of the City and Borough of Juneau to inspect my properly as needed for purposes of this	1.							
A	application.								
	X Landowner/Lessee Signature								
/ APPLICANT	X								
I.A	NOTICE: The City and Borough of Juneau staff may need access to the subject property during regular business hours and will altempt to contact the landowner in addition to the formal consent given above. Further, members of the Planning Commission may visit the property balors the scheduled public								
13	hearing date.								
ROJECT	APPLICANT If the same as OWNER, write SAME and sign and idea is X below. Applicant's Name Applicant's Name APPLICANT								
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APPROVALS	### Bignature OFFICE USE ONLY BELOW THIS LINE: Permit Type								
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ALLOWABLE/CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION

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	TYPE OF ALLOWABLE OR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUESTED									
	Accessory Apartment*** (AAP) Driveway in Right-of-Way (ADW)									
	Use Listed in §49.25.300 (USE) (Table of Permissible Uses)									
	Please list the Table of Permissible Uses Category: 18.300									
	DESCRIBE THE PROJECT FOR WHICH AN ALLOWABLE OR CONDITIONAL USE APPROVAL IS NEEDED. REMICUE OLD ANTRINA FAIZM, INSTALL NEW ANTRINA FAIZM, INSTALL NEW ANTRINA FAIZM ON TOP OF CAPITOL BUILDING.									
APPLICANT	IS THIS A MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING APPROVAL? NO YES-Case#									
뮏	CURRENT USE OF LAND OR BUILDING(S): OFFICES FOR STATE									
PROPOSED USE OF LAND OR BUILDING(S):										
BE (UTILITIES PROPOSED: WATER: Public On Site SEWER: Public On Site									
10 B										
	Total Area of Lot square feet									
	EXTERNAL LIGHTING: Proposed No Yes – Provide fixture information, cutoff sheets, and location of lighting fixtures Proposed No Yes – Provide fixture information, cutoff sheets, and location of lighting fixtures									
	PROJECT NARRATIVE AND SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST:									
	Site Plan Floor Plan of proposed buildings Elevation view of existing and proposed buildings Proposed Vegetative Cover Existing and proposed parking areas (including dimensions) and proposed traffic circulation Existing Physical Features of the site (drainage, habitat, hazard areas, etc.)									
	For more information	on regarding the	ALLOWABLE/CONDITION	ONAL USE FEES Fees 500.00	Check No. Re	ceipt	Date			
	required for a com	plete application,	Application Fees Admin. of Guarantee	\$						
	please see the revers	se side.	Admin. of Guarantee Adjustment	\$						
	If you need any ass	sistance filling out	Pub, Not. Sign Fee	<u>500</u>						
	this form, please contact the Permi Center at 586-0770.		Pub. Not. Sign Deposit	\$ <u>/00.00</u>	1/1/10 0 (= 710	1921	9/1/11			
		· 	Total Fee	\$ <u>650.00</u>	VCREDT 0157CD	172	119/11			

NOTE: MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EGAN

A Conditional Use permit to remove an old antenna farm and install PROPOSAL:

a new antenna farm on the Capitol Building roof.

FILE NO: USE2011 0023

Adjacent Property Owners TO:

HEARING DATE: Oct 11, 2011

HEARING TIME: 7:00 PM

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS PLACE:

> Municipal Building 155 South Seward St

Juneau, Alaska 99801

APPLICANT: SILVERBOW CONSTRUCTION

Property PCN: 1-C07-0-A19-001-0 Owner(s): STATE OF ALASKA &

800 Feet

DEPT OF ADMIN GEN SERVICES

Size: 39140 square feet

Zoned: Mixed Use

Site Address: 120 FOURTH ST

Accessed via: FOURTH ST

PROPERTY OWNERS PLEASE NOTE:

You are invited to attend this Public Hearing and present oral testimony. The Planning Commission will also consider written testimony. You are encouraged to submit written material to the Community Development Department no later than 8:30 A.M. on the Wednesday preceding the Public Hearing. Materials received by this deadline are included in the information packet given to the Planning Commission a few days before the Public Hearing. Written material received after the deadline will be provided to the Planning Commission at the Public Hearing.

If you have questions, please contact

KELLY_KEENAN@CI.JUNEAU.AK.US KELLY KEENAN 586-0756

Planning Commission Agendas, Staff Reports and Meeting Results can be viewed at www.juneau.org/plancomm.

SUBJECT PROPERTY: