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the BOULEVARD

El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association

June 4, 2012

Honorable Lorie Zapf
Chairperson, Land Use & Housing Committee
City of San Diego
202 "C" Street
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Citywide Utility Box Task Force

Dear Councilmember Zapf:

The El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association would like to express our concern about the growing intrusion of poorly sited utility "boxes" in the public right-of-way. Whether generated by new demand, changing technology, or by the State or City utility pole undergrounding programs which result in relocated utility fixtures; these structures create significant problems for our business community and our customers. The "boxes", installed by utilities such as Cox Communication, AT&T and SDG&E, are often non-compliant with ADA, attract unsightly graffiti, obstruct parking, signage and business access, and generally conflict with goals to enhance our patron's shopping and dining experience, and thereby generate more local sales, jobs, and tax revenue.

Therefore, we would like to offer our support for the formation of a citywide task force for the development of guidelines to address utility box design, placement and maintenance, and to protect our public right-of-way. We believe such a task force should include representatives from relevant utility companies and city departments, and, importantly, from diverse commercial and residential interests.

Your support for the formation of the task force and its goal to create much needed utility box guidelines is of great importance to our business community.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn R. O'Connor

Jacquelyn O'Connor, President
El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association

Cc: The Honorable Todd Gloria (Toddgloria@sandiego.gov)
Leslie Perkins (LRPerkins@sandiego.gov)
Steve Hill (SHill@sandiego.gov)
Dion Akers (Dakers@sandiego.gov)
Joe La Cava (joe@avetterra.com)
Cheryl Dye (cheryl.dye@cox.net)

3727-A El Cajon Boulevard • San Diego, California 92105 • 619.283.3608 fax 283.0050