

Department of Community and Economic Development
Planning Division
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY/CODE INTERPRETATION

**ADMINISTRATIVE
POLICY/CODE
INTERPRETATION #:** CI-66

**MUNICIPAL
CODE SECTIONS:** 4-4-140.F.1.b

REFERENCE: N/A

SUBJECT: Minimum Dimensions for Wireless Landscaping/Screening

BACKGROUND: RMC 4-4-140 was amended in 2014. Prior to amending the Section, a landscaped screening for wireless communication compounds was required to “include a minimum fifteen foot (15’) sight-obscuring landscape buffer around the accessory equipment facility.” The author of the code amendments assumed the 15’ measurement was regarding the height of the screening and made clarifying amendments to that end.

JUSTIFICATION: Subsequent to adoption of the amendments, staff informed the author that the compound screening has historically been required to be 15’ *wide*.

Upon further review of this subsection, it is unclear that the landscaped screening is required to be installed on the outside perimeter of the security fencing required by RMC 4-4140.F.6, Fencing, rather than directly screening shelters and cabinets located within the compound.

DECISION: The landscaped screening buffer shall be 15’ wide *and* the height of the screening shall be at least equal to the height of the compound fence. Additionally, the screening shall be located along the outside perimeter of the security fencing.

**ADMINISTRATOR
APPROVAL:**

C. E. “Chip” Vincent

DATE: March 16, 2015

**APPEAL
PROCESS:**

To appeal this determination, a written appeal--accompanied by the required filing fee--must be filed with the City's Hearing Examiner (1055

South Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057, 425-430-6515) no more than 14 days from the date of this decision. Your submittal should explain the basis for the appeal. Section 4-8-110 of the Renton Municipal Code provides further information on the appeal process.

**CODE
AMENDMENTS
NEEDED TO
IMPLEMENT
DETERMINATIONS:**

Screening: Equipment shelters and cabinets shall be surrounded by a fifteen-foot (15') wide sight-obscuring landscape buffer along the outside perimeter of required security fencing with a continuous minimum height that is no less than the height of the compound fence at any point of fifteen feet (15'); however, existing topography, vegetation and other site characteristics may provide relief from the screening requirement. The required landscaped areas shall include an automated irrigation system, unless the applicant is able to justify an exception to this requirement to the Administrator's satisfaction. Related equipment facilities located on the roof of any building need not be landscaped but shall be screened on all sides in a manner that complements and blends with the surroundings so as to be shielded from view. Related equipment facilities shall not be enclosed with exposed metal surfaces.

STAFF CONTACT: Paul Hintz