

From: Dallas Rutherford
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 10:08 AM
To: Jennifer Armer
Cc: Ashley Snodgrass; California Story Poles
Subject: Re: Story Poles in Los Gatos

Hi Jennifer,

Thanks for the email.

The Los Gatos story pole policy seems to be pretty clear and works fairly well for majority of residential projects, however, I do have a couple suggestions for taller commercial projects.

The first suggestion would be for heights above somewhere in the 35' tall range, especially in areas that have exposure to high winds. Using 2' mesh is quite problematic. Poles shorter than 30' generally don't catch much wind and won't require numerous repairs during the installation period, however, larger projects indeed catch a serious amount of wind, which requires much shorter spans between poles which raises the price. Most other jurisdictions in the bay area allow pennant flag rope for most projects which catches very little wind and generally won't need repairs, as well as less poles. We have been allowed to put up flagging on some tall areas of projects, such as the North 40 project as well as the senior living development on Woods. However, we were told to put 2 rows of flagging which is very difficult to install and usually only one line of flagging can be kept tight. I'm my opinion, the second row does not make it any more visible and only adds to the cost to the property owner.

Second, when commercial projects have very small side setbacks or zero setbacks and the pole height is above 20' or so it is hard to secure the pole safely without the need to obtain permission from the neighboring property to tie off guy wires to. Allowing poles to be set inward on the property to around 6-8' of the property line would be the suggestion.

Lastly, when we install poles at a functioning business there are frequently issues where our poles both impair the business and are damaged by cars, pedestrians, or vandalism. The business owners frequently want to remain open during the installation period which is problematic both during the installation itself as well as the period they remain up. I'm not sure what a good solution to this would be short of allowing some problematic poles to be eliminated and to allow flag rope instead of 2' mesh as it can span nearly 75' as opposed to around 30' for the 2' mesh. This would also make the installation less intrusive and less expensive to the owner. There is also a problem when a closed business is not allowed to have a temporary fence installed around the perimeter. For example, the closed car dealership at Los Gatos Blvd and Los Gatos Almaden Rd. We have installed poles on the proposed buildings on the lot over the last 6 years or so. Each time we have had issues with both cars pulling into the lot and hitting poles or breaking guy wires, as well as pedestrian traffic. The owner did

install bollards to prevent vehicular traffic for this round of poles but I believe they were told they cannot install a temporary perimeter fence during the installation. There are some homeless people whom I believe have repeatedly caused damage to the poles / guy wires. When there is no perimeter on a project we specifically accept no liability for property or personal injury and I believe as part of the approval process the city forces a waiver of liability from the applicant but also requires the poles to be installed. It would only seem fair to me to at a minimum allow a perimeter fencing to be installed by the property owner to protect them from liability.

I hope that was useful, I'd be happy to discuss further if you would like. Feel free to email or call anytime.

Many Thanks,
Dallas Rutherford

Dallas Rutherford
www.californiastorypoles.com

April 20, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Story poles are only for a silhouette, not secondary design features such as dormers etc.

Tying to trees is beneficial many times for safety and support, and does not damage trees in any way. Los Gatos is the only city or county that restricts tying to trees.

Flag poles for many projects are a safe alternative for the taller structures, near power lines or near setbacks where the lines cannot extend off the property site.

Projects should be evaluated within 30 days of installation.

There is no template that can be used for pricing story pole installation, as the staking needs are unique to each project.

Sincerely,

Steve Babcock

Steve Babcock's Storypoles

***This Page
Intentionally
Left Blank***