



## CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH

March 3, 2015 Special Municipal Election

### IMPORTANT REMINDER REGARDING POLITICAL SIGNS

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The following is an excerpt from the Hermosa Beach Municipal Code regarding the placement of political signs during campaign periods:

#### Section 17.50.160

#### Political signs.

Any political sign shall be permitted on private property only, with the consent of the property owner, in any zone, for a reasonable period of time preceding an election. No political signs shall be posted on public property or utility poles. All political signs shall be removed within fifteen (15) days following the date of the subject election.

Attached is a letter from Southern California Edison specifically relating to the placement of any type of signage on utility poles.

Committees are responsible, upon notice, for the immediate removal of illegally posted signs. If the signs are not removed, the committee could be responsible for the cost incurred by City employees who must remove the illegal signage. It is recommended that committees advise their members/supporters accordingly.

The City of Hermosa Beach and Southern California Edison greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation throughout the election process. Thank you.

*Elaine Doerfling*  
*Hermosa Beach City Clerk*  
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*Hermosa Beach, CA 90254*  
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Raymond Pok, LPA Region Manager  
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January 21, 2015

Office of the City Clerk  
City of Hermosa Beach  
1315 Valley Drive  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

**Re: Campaign Signs On Utility Poles**

Dear City Clerk,

With election season on the horizon, Southern California Edison Co. (SCE) is once again reminding that it is unlawful to post election materials on utility poles.

This practice violates California Penal Code 556.1 and 591, which prohibits posting political placards and leaflets, or any other information or advertisement regarding community events, garage sales, or lost animals. Listed as a misdemeanor, the Penal Code states that the offense is punishable by a fine of \$500 and a maximum one-year imprisonment.

The law protects SCE linemen and their crews who use the poles in their work. Nails or other fasteners used to hold signs create a hazard for these employees.

We certainly appreciate your cooperation in advising political candidates and campaign workers to refrain from placing signs and placards on utility poles. In addition, I have enclosed the aforementioned Penal Codes which further describe each code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray Pok", is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

Ray Pok, Region Manager  
Southern California Edison Local Public Affairs

Enclosed: California Penal Codes 556.1 and 591



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## **CALIFORNIA PENAL CODES**

### **SECTION 556.1:**

It is a misdemeanor for any person to place or maintain or cause to be placed or maintained upon any property in which he has no estate or right of possession any sign, picture, transparency, advertisement, or mechanical device which is used for the purpose of advertising, or which advertises or brings to notice any person, article of merchandise, business or profession, or anything that is to be or has been sold, bartered, or given away, without the consent of the owner, lessee, or person in lawful possession of such property before such sign, picture, transparency, advertisement, or mechanical device is placed upon the property.

### **SECTION 591:**

A person who unlawfully and maliciously takes down, removes, injures, or obstructs any line of telegraph, telephone, or cable television, or any other line used to conduct electricity, or any part thereof, or appurtenances or apparatus connected therewith, or severs any wire thereof, or makes any unauthorized connection with any line, other than a telegraph, telephone, or cable television line, used to conduct electricity, or any part thereof, or appurtenances or apparatus connected therewith, is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison, or by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), or imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year.