

April 28, 2009

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Proposed Underground Utility District  
Bradley Road from Amethyst Drive to Larch Avenue  
Orcutt Area

Pursuant to Chapter 34, Section 34-3 of the Santa Barbara County Code, the County Road Commissioner shall submit a report to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors describing the scope of a proposed utility undergrounding project. The report is also intended to detail the costs borne by the utility companies, the County, and private property owners. In addition, the report is intended to outline the estimated time required to complete the proposed project.

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has notified the County of Santa Barbara that sufficient funds will be available in their Rule 20A allocation credit balance to undertake undergrounding projects in the PG&E territory within Santa Barbara County. The Utility Undergrounding committee, as appointed by Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, has held meetings to discuss and evaluate which location within Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) service area would be most in need of an undergrounding project. The Committee has selected and is recommending that Bradley Road from Amethyst Drive to Larch Avenue be considered for the next project. This project was reviewed and considered to be a good candidate pursuant to consideration by the Undergrounding Utility Committee in 2002. Delays in funding commitments by PG&E delayed execution of the project. In addition, the project now includes coordination with the County road improvement project at the Bradley Road – Union Valley Parkway intersection (Project # 8640069). Since the Bradley Road- Union Valley Parkway Improvement Project is expected to precede the Bradley Road Undergrounding project PG&E will sign an agreement with the County of Santa Barbara for reimbursement of expenses incurred in preparation for the future undergrounding the area associated with the Bradley Road- Union Valley Parkway Improvement Project. The area fulfills one or more of PG&E's Rule 20A requirements, which are:

1. Such undergrounding will avoid or eliminate an unusually heavy concentration of overhead electrical facilities;
2. The street or road or right-of-way is extensively used by the general public and carries a heavy volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
3. The street or road or right-of-way adjoins or passes through a civic area or public recreation area or an area of unusually scenic interest to the general public; or
4. The street or road or right-of-way is considered an arterial street or major collector as defined in the Governor's Office of Planning Research General Plan Guidelines.

The project will accomplish the removal of overhead electrical, telephone and cable services on Bradley Road, Union Valley Parkway (approximately 900 feet west and 1,000 feet east of Bradley Road), and Foster Road (approximately 1,300 feet west and 1,300 feet east of Bradley Road). The utility companies are prepared to proceed with the project upon adoption of a resolution by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors creating a Utility Undergrounding District for the area designated. All the underground construction work by the utility companies will be completed by April 2012 with service conversion by May 2012 and removal of existing overhead facilities accomplished by June 2012. The serving utility companies will obtain all necessary utility easements if any are required.

The Public Works Department has received from the utility companies (PG&E, Verizon and Comcast Cable) reports of cost estimates for the conversion of overhead utilities to underground facilities within the proposed District. The estimated costs are approximately \$800,000 for PG&E, \$800,000 for Verizon and \$400,000 for Comcast for a total estimated cost of \$2,000,000.

The utility companies' scope of work includes undergrounding service connections up to 100 feet in length and up to \$1,500 towards electrical panel conversions per panel. Costs to complete service connections more than 100 feet in length, costs to change out electrical panel exceeding \$1,500 and permit fees are the responsibility of the property owner. County administrative costs are funded by the General Fund and encroachment inspection costs are borne by the road fund.

The boundaries of the proposed undergrounding district is described and shown as exhibits in the resolution to establish the underground utility district.

Notice to the affected property owners was given via letter dated February 3, 2009 describing the proposed undergrounding district, the proposed project, and its potential effects. Property owners will have the opportunity to express comments at the hearing to consider adoption of the resolution to create the undergrounding district.