

October 21, 2014

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Proposed Underground Utility District
Bradley Road from Amethyst Drive to Approximately 525 Feet North of 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 are 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 approximately 525 feet north of 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, the need to modify the boundary, and revisions to County responsibilities and funding obligations have delayed execution of the project. The project does include coordination with the County road improvement project at the Bradley Road-Union Valley Parkway intersection (Project # 8640069) that was completed in 2012 and anticipated the undergrounding 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 from Amethyst Drive to a point approximately 525 feet north of Larch Avenue. 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 and execution of agreements to perform tariff schedule related work. All the underground construction work by the utility companies, service reconnections and removal of existing facilities will be completed by the end of 2019. No utility easements appear to be required.

The Public Works Department has received from PG&E a report of cost estimate for the conversion of overhead electric utilities to underground facilities within the proposed District of approximately \$2,335,602. Verizon and Comcast do not track cost credits but rather budget ahead for undergrounding work upon notice from the County that an undergrounding district has been formed. Verizon may, upon consultation with PG&E act as the lead utility. Upfront costs for the preparation of a base map to be provided to the utility companies, and related studies, is estimated to cost \$35,000. Other costs to the County during construction include construction inspection are not known at this time. There are no costs to affected property owners anticipated at this time.

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 to set up the undergrounding district are funded by the General Fund and design coordination 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 October 7, 2014 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.