



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: 5/19/09
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: 6/2/2009 10 min
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Director, x3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Mark A. Schleich, Deputy Director, x3600

SUBJECT: Bradley Road Utility Undergrounding District from Amethyst Drive to Larch Avenue in Unincorporated Santa Maria; Fourth Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

- A. Receive the attached Road Commissioner's report describing the boundary and scope of the utility undergrounding work;
- B. Set a public hearing for June 2, 2009 to consider forming the utility undergrounding district; and
- C. On June 2, 2009, consider adoption of the resolution creating the utility undergrounding district.

Summary Text:

This action proposes the undergrounding of existing overhead utilities along Bradley Road from Amethyst Drive to Larch Avenue. This would extend the undergrounding of utilities on Bradley Road from the 1985 utility undergrounding project that focused on the Oak Knoll Shopping Center at the intersection at Clark Avenue and extended from Via Alta to Amethyst Drive along Bradley Road.

In addition, road improvements are proposed at Bradley Road and Union Valley Parkway intersection in the summer of 2010 that are within the limits of the undergrounding project. The proposed undergrounding project is planned for completion by summer 2012 due to the scheduling of other PG&E projects including the current project in Ballard. The Bradley Road and Union Valley Parkway intersection project will coordinate the undergrounding work by installing conduit for future use by the undergrounding project. County costs in the intersection project related to the future undergrounding will be reimbursed by PG&E when the undergrounding project is initiated.

Background:

Pursuant to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) tariff rule 20A as regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission, PG&E, sets aside funding annually to be used for the undergrounding of existing overhead utilities. Excluding the estimated costs for the current Baseline Avenue project in Ballard (estimated at \$680,000), there is currently \$3,836,590 in the fund not including the 2009 allocation (approximately \$375,000). To qualify for the use of the funds, the governing body must determine after consultation with PG&E and creating an undergrounding district that undergrounding the overhead utilities is in the public interest for at least one of the following reasons:

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

Likewise, Verizon (telephone) and Comcast (cable) participate in the undergrounding program under similar tariff rules but do not allocate funds annually. Instead, these utility companies budget the work by year. PG&E will generally act as lead utility and coordinate the work with the other utility companies. Verizon will act as lead in this case.

Current projects within the PG& E service territory, as discussed in the Utility Undergrounding Committee in November 2002, include the Baseline Avenue project in Ballard (soon to begin construction) and the proposed extension of the existing undergrounding district on Bradley Road from Amethyst Drive to Larch Avenue. A delay in project initiation was due to delays in PG& E ability to fund the program. The proposed Bradley Road project involves the undergrounding of existing overhead utilities from Amethyst Drive to Larch Avenue and is planned for completion by June of 2012.

The Public Works Department is also proposing to improve the intersection of Bradley Road and Union Valley Parkway (Project No. 864009) with new lanes and signalization. That project, to be completed by summer 2010, will incorporate underground facilities to be used in the utility undergrounding project. Due to scheduling with other PG&E 20A undergrounding projects within PG&E's service territory, the undergrounding work cannot be completed prior to initiation of the County intersection improvement project. Therefore, it is proposed to incorporate undergrounding conduit in the County project for future use by the undergrounding project. Costs related to future undergrounding work expended by the County will be reimbursed when the undergrounding work is initiated.

The Bradley Road corridor is a highly traveled route that connects commercial centers. Since inception of the 20A utility undergrounding program in 1968, the County has initiated several projects in the PG&E service territory. The projects completed to date are: assistance to the City of Guadalupe in 2002; the Highway 246 project between Buellton and Solvang in 1998; the Vandenberg Village project in 1995; The Refugio Road project in 1995 and the Los Olivos project in 1994; a Solvang area project in 1991; Orcutt area project in 1986; the Miller Road project in Santa Maria in 1974; a Buellton project in 1974 and a Solvang project in 1969.

In general, an undergrounding project consists of placing all overhead distribution facilities underground. This includes the undergrounding of service connections to homes and structures. Current conditions of the 20A program allow the use of 20A funds to pay for the undergrounding of the service connections (up to 100 feet) as well as the conversion of electrical meter panels (up to \$1,500 per panel). Costs to be borne by the property owner include undergrounding of their service connection more than 100 feet in length and building permit fees (if required). Encroachment permit fees are waived and inspection costs are borne by the County.

Performance Measure:

The project will enhance the aesthetic and safety features of Bradley Road especially at the Union Valley Road intersection to accommodate the concurrent improvement project as well as the intersection with Foster Road thereby enhancing the area around Righetti and St. Joseph’s High Schools.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			\$ 2,000,000.00
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00

Narrative: Design and construction costs are covered by the utility companies. Administrative costs are budgeted through the general fund and inspection costs are borne by the road fund. Design and construction costs beyond the scope of the undergrounding program that relate to private services are borne by the property owner. Costs borne by the utility companies are estimated as follows:

PG&E	\$800,000
Verizon	\$800,000
Comcast	\$400,000

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
None

FTEs:
None

Special Instructions:

- A. Public Works Department staff will notify property owners regarding the hearing date as well as notify property owners and utility companies within 10 days of resolution adoption.
- B. Direct the Clerk of the Board to return one copy of the executed resolution and certified minute order to the Public Works Department, 620 West Foster Road, Santa Maria to Martin Wilder.
- C. Direct the Clerk of the Board to record the resolution.

Attachments:

Notice of public hearing
Road Commissioner's report
Resolution with legal description and exhibit map

Authored by:

Martin Wilder, Utilities Manager

Copy:

Rochelle Camozzi, Public Works CFO