

Agenda Report

TO: City Council

DATE: November 24, 2003

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Establishment of Underground Utility District No. 03-1
Raymond Avenue (Glenarm to Del Mar Blvd.)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that, after a public hearing the City Council:

1. Adopt a Resolution establishing Underground Utility District No. 03-1.
2. Acknowledge this project to be categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act in accordance with Article 19, Section 15302(a) of the CEQA Guidelines (conversion of overhead electric utility systems to underground) and authorize the City Manager to execute and the City Clerk to file a Notice of Exemption for the project with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

BACKGROUND:

The City has a continuing program to underground all overhead electric systems, specifically communication and power lines. The undergrounding of overhead electric systems improves system reliability, and the aesthetic quality of an area is enhanced by the removal of unsightly utility poles and overhead wires. Although the affected utilities are currently preparing draft plans for the undergrounding system, an established underground utility district is necessary to require the affected property owners to underground their private property facilities.

A finding of compliance with the General Plan was previously made and is shown in the recommended FY 2004-2008 Capital Improvement Program.

All affected property owners will be notified of the public hearing on the establishment of the district, which is scheduled for November 24, 2003. An informational meeting was held on November 17, 2003, to acquaint property owners with the intent and cost of the proposed utility district.

Under the guidelines for implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this project is categorically exempt since it involves the conversion of an overhead electric utility system to an underground system. Therefore, it is recommended that a Notice of Exemption be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Historically, when an underground district is established, all utilities enter into a joint trench agreement with the Department of Water and Power's contractor, in which all utilities share in the cost. However, due to minimal undergrounding required by private utilities, a joint trench will not be used for this district. Private utilities that are affected by this district include AT&T Solutions and Charter Communications. These utilities at a shared cost will obtain a private contractor to design and construct the installation of underground conduit at Raymond Avenue and Fillmore Street.

Therefore, Water and Power will be the primary utility affected by this district and will install an underground system to maintain their existing services. After the installation of conduits, cables, transformers and other facilities, the affected property owners must install conduits from their property line at the sidewalk to their existing meter or designated service point. The cost of the work ranges from \$2,000 to \$5,000, in which the City will reimburse each property owner up to \$2,000 or the lesser actual cost of the work to underground private power facilities. Removal of poles and overhead wires will take place after all customers are connected to the underground system. This project with the installation of new street lighting is scheduled to begin construction in March 2004 with a projected completion date of June 2005.

Upon completion of the undergrounding, the 710 Freeway Mitigation Project will begin construction on the Raymond Avenue Widening Project. This project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration through Caltrans, which initially included funding for the relocation of the overhead utility system. However, Caltrans has agreed to reallocate the funding as partial funding of the underground utility district. After final negotiations with Caltrans, staff will return to Council with a recommendation to approve a journal voucher to transfer funding from Budget Account 73205 to Budget Account 74500. This project is scheduled to begin construction in August 2005.

STATISTICS:

▪ Total number of properties within proposed utility district:	58
▪ Properties with overhead services required to convert:	12
▪ Properties with underground or overhead services not required to convert:	46
▪ Total number of poles to be removed:	41
▪ Total number of miles within proposed utility district:	0.9

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE:

▪ Construction of electric conduits:	March 2004
▪ Construction of telephone conduits:	N/A
▪ Installation of electric cables, and transformers:	March 2004
▪ Installation of telephone and TV cables:	N/A
▪ Date by which customers must be connected to underground system:	March 2005
▪ Removal of poles on or before:	June 2005
▪ Construction of street widening project:	August 2005

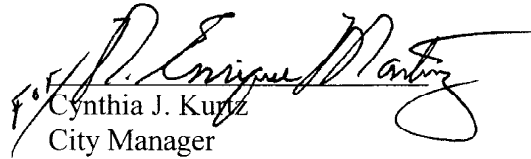
ESTIMATED UTILITY COST:

▪ Electric conduit system (Surtax Fund)	\$1,200,000
▪ Telephone system (SBC)	N/A
▪ Cable TV system (Altrio)	N/A
▪ Cable TV system (Charter)	N/A
▪ Cable Fiber Optic (AT&T Solutions)	N/A
▪ New Street Lighting System	\$320,000

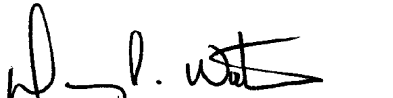
FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds for the proposed Underground Utility District 03-1 are provided by the Underground Surtax Fund as part of the City's FY 2004-2008 Capital Improvement Program under Budget Account Number 74500.

Respectfully submitted,

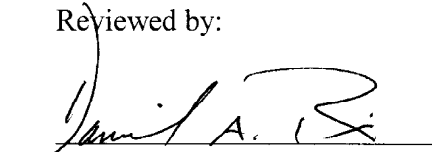

 Cynthia J. Kurtz
 City Manager

Prepared by:



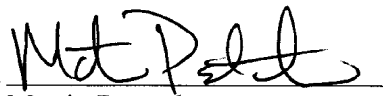
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Reviewed by:



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