

Agenda Report

TO: City Council

DATE: May 24, 2003

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution to Establish Underground Utility District No. 04-1
Los Robles Avenue (*Washington Boulevard to North City Limits*)

RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Adopt a Resolution establishing Underground Utility District No. 04-1, Los Robles Avenue from Washington Boulevard to North City Limits.
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.

This project would underground the overhead system in the area from Washington Boulevard and North City Limits. 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 have been notified of the public hearing on the establishment of the district. An informational meeting was held on May 17, 2004, in which seven property owners were in attendance to discuss the timeline 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:

The Pasadena Department of Water and Power, SBC, and Charter Communications will be installing new underground facilities in order to maintain their existing services. All public utilities will enter into a joint trench agreement with the Department of Water and Power's contractor, in which all utilities will share in the space and cost of the trench.

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 is scheduled to begin construction in March 2005 with a projected completion date of June 2006.

STATISTICS:

▪ Total number of properties within proposed utility district:	131
▪ Properties with overhead services required to convert:	97
▪ Total number of poles to be removed:	80
▪ Total number of miles within proposed utility district:	.85

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE:

▪ Construction of electric conduits:	March 2005
▪ Construction of telephone conduits:	March 2005
▪ Installation of electric cables, and transformers:	June 2005
▪ Installation of telephone and TV cables:	June 2005
▪ Date by which customers must be connected to underground system:	March 2006
▪ Removal of poles on or before:	June 2006

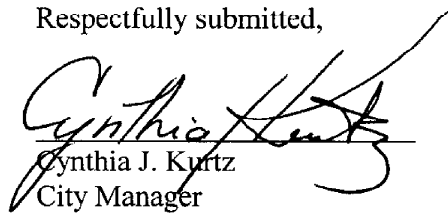
ESTIMATED UTILITY COST:

▪ Electric Underground System (Surtax Fund)	\$2,500,000
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FISCAL IMPACT:

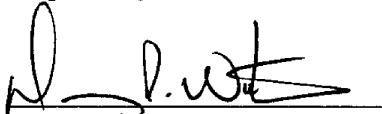
Funds for the proposed Underground Utility District 04-1 are provided by the Underground Surtax Fund as part of the City's FY 2004-2008 Capital Improvement Program under Budget Account Number 74841, Los Robles Avenue, Electric System Undergrounding; Washington Boulevard to North City Limits.

Respectfully submitted,



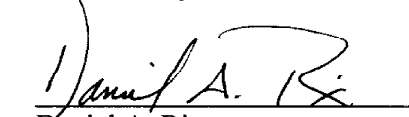
Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Prepared by:



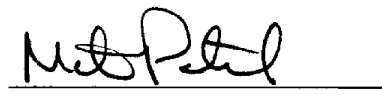
Danny R. Wooten,
Management Analyst III
Department of Public Works

Reviewed by:



Daniel A. Rix
City Engineer

Approved by:



Martin Pastucha
Director
Department of Public Works