

Agenda Report

DATE: March 28, 2011

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Finance Committee

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: REVISED PRIORITIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2011 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, STREET LIGHTING AND ELECTRIC SYSTEM UNDERGROUNDING PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve the revised prioritization of the FY 2011 Capital Improvement Program, Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding Projects per Attachment A;
2. Approve a journal voucher to unappropriate \$2,980,000 Underground Surtax Funds from Budget Account 74489, Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Michillinda Avenue, Foothill Boulevard to North City Limits per Attachment B and returning to Underground Surtax Fund Balance; and
3. Approve a journal voucher recognizing and appropriating \$2,100,000 Underground Surtax Funds to Budget Account 74490, Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Raymond Avenue, Maple Street to North City Limits and \$880,000 Underground Surtax Funds to Budget Account 74485, Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Howard Street, Lincoln Avenue to Raymond Avenue.

BACKGROUND:

Since inception of the Underground Utility Program in 1968, the criterion used to develop the multi-year Capital Improvement Program was beautification. This program involved undergrounding of City and other local utilities' overhead lines, allowing the removal of all overhead wires and utility poles, which generally improves the aesthetics of the City.

When the program began, the City's streets were divided into 3 primary categories: 1) Arterial and Collector Streets; 2) Residential Streets; and 3) Rear Properties and Alleys.

The initial priority selected for the use of underground surtax was Category I, Arterial and Collector Streets. The underground priority is based on the following criteria:

1. Streets where heavy concentration of overhead lines;
2. Streets where overhead lines are deteriorated and need to be replaced;
3. Streets where power lines are in conflict with tree clearance;
4. Streets where there is a higher risk of fire hazards; and
5. Streets where major street construction is planned.

In October 2005, the City Council adopted Michillinda Avenue, Foothill Boulevard to North City Limits as Underground Utility District 05-1. This underground project involved collaboration between the cities of Pasadena, Sierra Madre and Arcadia. The affected utilities included Pasadena Water and Power, Southern California Edison, Verizon, and Charter Communications.

As it relates to the City of Pasadena, this project would require the undergrounding of overhead facilities on the West side of Michillinda Avenue. Edison would require the undergrounding of overhead facilities on the East side of Michillinda Avenue. Verizon currently maintains its existing underground facilities within the district.

Recently the City has received an updated project schedule from both Edison and Verizon, in which both utilities are experiencing extensive delays in project scheduling and budget restraints. As a result, these utilities will continue to maintain their existing overhead facilities until the project has been approved for underground construction. The projected timeline for construction is estimated at five years or more.

Based on the updated schedule, staff is recommending the current underground priority be revised to reprioritize the underground schedule for Michillinda Avenue until all other affected utilities receive funding and approval to schedule this project for construction.

Currently, there is approximately \$2,980,000 Underground Utility Surtax allocated to Michillinda Avenue underground utility district. Based on higher priority projects that currently await funding, staff is also recommending that the City Council approve a journal voucher to remove the \$2,980,000 from the Michillinda Avenue Project (Budget Account 74489) and allocate \$2,100,000 to priority #4, Raymond Avenue, Maple Street to North City Limits and \$880,000 to priority number #7, proposed underground utility district Howard Street, Lincoln Avenue to Raymond Avenue.

Should the City Council approve these recommendations, Michillinda Avenue will become Priority #15. Based on the recommended appropriations, Raymond Avenue will be fully funded and scheduled for underground construction. Howard Avenue will be recommended to the City Council to be adopted as Underground Utility District 11-1. Upon the adoption of Howard Street, the appropriated funding would be utilized to start the design phase of the Street Lighting and Underground Systems.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The reprioritization of the underground priority is consistent with the City Council's Goal to improve, maintain and enhance public facilities and infrastructure.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The City's Environmental Administrator has determined all underground projects to be categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act in accordance with Article 19, Section 15302(a) of the CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

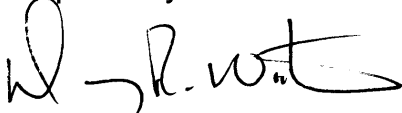
The recommended action will unappropriate \$2,980,000 of Underground Surtax from Budget Account 74489, Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Michillinda Avenue, Foothill Boulevard to North City Limits and provide appropriations of \$2,100,000 Underground Surtax to Budget Account 74490, Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Raymond Avenue, Maple Street to North City Limits and \$880,000 Underground Surtax to Budget Account 74485, Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Howard Street, Lincoln Avenue to Raymond Avenue.

Respectfully submitted,



JULIE A. GUTIERREZ
Assistant City Manager/
Acting Director, Department of Public Works

Prepared by:



Danny R. Wooten
Management Analyst IV
Department of Public Works

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

ATTACHMENT A

FY 2011 - 2015 Capital Improvement Program Proposed Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding Priority

Priority	Description
1	Miscellaneous - Electric System Undergrounding, Various Locations (74569)
2	Los Robles Avenue - Electric System Undergrounding, Washington Blvd. to North City Limits (74841)
3	Hill Avenue - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Villa St. to North City Limits (74488)
4	Raymond Avenue - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Maple Street to North City Limits (74490)
5	Alpine Street - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Marengo Avenue to El Molino Avenue (74801)
6	Mountain Avenue - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Lake Avenue to Hill Avenue (74909)
7	Howard Street - Electric System Undergrounding, Lincoln Avenue to Raymond Avenue (74485)
8	Sierra Madre Boulevard - Electric System Undergrounding, Villa Street to Paloma Street
9	Hastings Ranch Dr - Sierra Madre Boulevard - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Rosemead Boulevard to Sierra Madre Boulevard and Riviera Dr to Michillinda Avenue
10	Arroyo Boulevard - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Seco Street to South City Limits
11	San Pasqual Avenue - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Hill Avenue to Allen Avenue
12	Lida Street - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Vista Lane to West City Limits
13	Patrician Way - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Colorado Boulevard to Glenoaks Boulevard
14	Orange Grove Boulevard - Electric System Undergrounding, Fair Oaks Avenue to Lake Avenue
15	Michillinda Avenue - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Foothill Boulevard to North City Limits (74489)

ATTACHMENT - B

FY 2011 - 2015 Capital Improvement Program Street Lighting and Electric Undergrounding

Michillinda Avenue - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Foothill Blvd. to North City Limits
74489

Priority	Project No.	Description	Total Estimated Costs	Appropriated Through FY 2010	Adopted FY 2011	Proposed FY 2012	Proposed FY 2013	Proposed FY 2014	Proposed FY 2015
14	74489	Michillinda Avenue - Street Lighting and Electric System Undergrounding, Foothill Blvd. to North City Limits	1,740,200	600,000	0	0	0	0	1,340,200
		Underground Surtax - Power Facilities	7,000,000	2,450,000	0	0	0	0	4,550,000
		Underground Surtax - Street Lighting	8,740,200	3,050,000	0	0	0	0	5,890,200
		Total							

Michillinda Avenue Undergroundings

DESCRIPTION: This project provides for the installation of a new street lighting system (west side only) using LED lighting and the undergrounding of electrical utilities on Michillinda Avenue from Foothill Boulevard to the north city limits.

JUSTIFICATION: This project will improve street lighting for traffic and pedestrian safety. The LED lights will reduce the City's environmental footprint. The LED street lamps are mercury free, have a longer life than other lamps and consume approximately 60 percent less energy. Undergrounding the power facilities improves streetscape aesthetics and system reliability.

SCHEDULE: The establishment of the district and design of the street lighting system and underground facilities is currently on hold pending an agreement between Southern California Edison, Time Warner Cable, and the cities of Sierra Madre and Arcadia.

RELATIONSHIP TO GENERAL PLAN: This project is consistent with the Mobility Element/Power Facilities in that to improve the visual environment of the City through improved streetscapes, conversion of existing overhead to underground facilities will be encouraged.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: This project will require the cooperation of two other cities since the eastern half of the street is located within the cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre.

HISTORY: This project was created in FY 1986 and received initial funding in FY 2004.

