



Engineer's Report for Proposed Coast Highway Underground Utility District 2019-01

In the City of Laguna Beach, California

April 16, 2019

Prepared By: City of Laguna Beach Public Works Department, 505 Forest Avenue
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I. INTRODUCTION

An underground utility district is proposed to be established for a portion of Coast Highway from approximately Agate Street to Arch Street in the City of Laguna Beach for the purpose of removing all existing overhead utilities of, but not limited to, Southern California Edison (SCE), Cox Communications, and Frontier Communications within the district boundary and placing them underground. The boundary of the proposed district is shown on the attached Exhibit "A." Chapter 21.24 of the Laguna Beach Municipal Code sets forth provisions for establishing such an underground utility district. This Engineer's Report is required in order to establish an underground district.

The project proposes to place all existing overhead utilities along Coast Highway, and within the district, underground and provide underground utility service connections to all properties within the district that directly face Coast Highway. For properties that currently receive services from utilities in Coast Highway, they will continue to receive services through the proposed underground connections. For properties that face Coast Highway but currently receive services from existing overhead poles and wires in the rear of the properties through overhead utility easements, it is proposed to provide underground connections for those properties so that they have the option to also receive services from the proposed underground connections in Coast Highway. Providing access to underground facilities for all properties facing Coast Highway will eliminate the need to trench, or disturb, Coast Highway again if the areas surrounding the district choose to underground utilities in the future.

II. PHASES OF THE WORK

The proposed utility undergrounding district will be completed through the following phases of work.

Design

Upon approval by the City Council of a resolution to establish the underground utility district, construction drawings will be developed by the utility companies. The drawings will establish the proposed locations for below-ground conduits and handholes and above- or below-ground transformers, street lights, and any other equipment. The design process involves SCE preparing a civil land survey

and developing the construction drawings. These drawings are then distributed to both Cox Communications and Frontier Communications, so they may commence with their designs, typically utilizing a joint trench design with the SCE facilities. The locations for easements on private properties for structures and conduits shall be determined at this stage of the project. If easements are required, the affected property owners will be contacted to coordinate the recording of such easements.

Construction

The construction phase will consist of (a) construction of underground utilities for, but not limited to, SCE, Frontier Communications, and Cox Communications, (b) construction of service connections for those properties that currently receive services from Coast Highway and qualify under the PUC Rule 20A guidelines, (c) the construction of service connections to those properties that do not currently receive services from Coast Highway and have the option to switch over to the new underground system, and (d) installation of street lights and connections to be owned and maintained by the City of Laguna Beach.

Removals

The last phase of the project consists of the removal of all existing overhead utility wires and utility poles within the district boundaries as shown on Exhibit "A." The utility companies are responsible for the removal of their respective wires and poles.

III. COST OF THE WORK

SCE has prepared a rough order of magnitude cost of the project in the amount of \$5 million, which includes the costs for design, construction, some of the private property connections, removals, and contingencies for SCE, Cox, and Frontier. A more refined cost estimate will be prepared by SCE and the City after the construction drawings are developed.

Once the district has been established by resolution of the City Council, SCE shall use underground conversion allocations following the requirements of PUC Rule 20A for the design and construction of the underground facilities, and the conversion for all properties currently receiving service from the overhead utilities on Coast Highway. Underground conversion allocations will be used for work on private property for the installation of no more than 100 feet of each customer's underground electric service lateral and the conversion of a customer's meter panel to accept underground service. Those properties that do not currently receive their utility service from Coast Highway will have the option to connect to the new underground system at the time of construction. Costs for that work on private property, which includes trenching, conduit installation, electric meter panel conversion are to be paid by other City revenues through a separate contract for that work. After installation, each property owner in the district shall be responsible for the maintenance of the conduit and termination box located on, under, or within any structure on the premises served.

IV. RULE 20A FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Funding for the work will be from underground conversion allocations made available by the California Public Utilities Commission through Rule 20A that were either allocated to, or purchased by, the City for undergrounding purposes. For a project to qualify as a Rule 20A project, it must be determined, after consultation with the electric utility, that such undergrounding is in the general public interest for one or more of the following reasons:

- (a) Such undergrounding will avoid or eliminate an unusually heavy concentration of overhead electric facilities;
- (b) The street or right-of-way is extensively used by the general public and carries a heavy volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
- (c) 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 general public; or
- (d) The street or right-of-way is considered an arterial street or major collector road, as defined in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research General Plan Guidelines.

This project will remove overhead utilities and 33 utility poles along Coast Highway which has been determined to meet the requirements to qualify as a Rule 20A project under subdivisions (a), (b), (c), and (d) as described above.

V. SCHEDULE OF THE WORK

The estimated project schedule is:

Design	12 months
Construction	24 months
Overhead Facilities Removal	12 months
Total	48 months

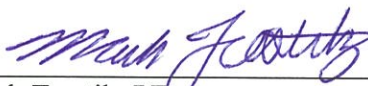
Therefore, it is expected that the proposed undergrounding, conversion of private services, and removal of overhead utilities and poles will be completed by the end of May 2023.

Prepared by



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Exhibit "A"
Boundary Map
Underground Utility District No. 2019-01

