

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: MAY 28, 2008

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: RAMIRO ADEVA, CITY ENGINEER

SUBJECT: CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 08-1481, ESTABLISHING UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON "RULE 20A" PROGRAM

This request before the City Council is to conduct a public hearing to consider approval of attached Resolution No. 08-1480, establishing Underground Utility District No. 1 in conjunction with the Southern California Edison (SCE) "Rule 20A" program.

SCE looks to the cities it serves to prioritize the undergrounding of public utility facilities according to the rules of the State of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Under the "Rule 20A" program, the City is allotted approximately \$40,000 each year towards undergrounding projects. SCE realizes that projects of this nature are a huge expense, and therefore allows annual allocations to be banked so cities can eventually accrue enough funds to complete a project. To date, the City has banked approximately \$700,000 in "Rule 20A" money.

Recently, City staff was informed by staff from both the CPUC and SCE that a portion of the City's "Rule 20A" funds were at risk of being taken away and given to another agency that has projects ready to move forward but is in need of additional funding. The false impression that was being conveyed was that the City did not have any immediate use for the funds since there were no projects that had ever been constructed using the "Rule 20A" money before. The reality is the City is ready to use the funds, but with estimated construction costs of \$1 million per mile to underground distribution lines (transmission lines get even more expensive), the accrued \$700,000 would not be enough to complete a substantial project.

In light of this, staff from the City and SCE met to discuss the steps to ensure the City's "Rule 20A" funds would not be lost. SCE required that a resolution (attached for your approval) be approved, establishing an undergrounding district, and reflecting the City has prioritized a specific area to use the money and is serious about completing a project once enough money has been accrued.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council conduct a public hearing and approve Resolution No. 08-1480, establishing Underground Utility District No. 1 in conjunction with the Southern California Edison (SCE) “Rule 20A” program.

Attachment: Resolution No. 08-1481

RESOLUTION NO. 08-1481

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
AGOURA HILLS ESTABLISHING UNDERGROUND UTILITY
DISTRICT NO. 01**

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly called and held on May 28, 2008, at hour of 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Agoura Hills City Hall, 30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, California, to ascertain whether the public necessity, health, safety, and welfare requires the removal of poles, overhead wires, and associated service within that certain area of the City described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto, and;

WHEREAS, notice of such hearing was duly posted around the City in the manner and within the time required by law;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, AND DETERMINE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The proposed project relates to the replacement and reconstruction of existing utility systems described in "Class 2" of the categorical exemptions under the State CEQA Guidelines and the Local CEQA Guidelines and is therefore exempt from the requirement for preparation of environmental documents.

Section 2. Pursuant to Southern California Edison's approved Advice 1399-E, Rule 20A funds will be used for the conversion of affected property owners' meter panels from overhead to underground service. The cost of such meter conversions using Rule 20A funds shall be limited to existing meters and shall not include permit fees or any upgrades requested by affected property owners.

Section 3. The Underground Utility District herein created is in the public interest for the following reason: The undergrounding to be accomplished adjoins and passes through a heavily traveled public right-of-way area which also will be an area of scenic interest to the general public.

Section 4. Pursuant to Article VII, Chapter 2 of the Agoura Hills Municipal Code, the hereinafter described area is hereby declared an Underground Utility District, and is designated as Underground Utility District No. 01 of the City of Agoura Hills, California. Attached hereto, marked Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein as part of this Resolution, is a map delineating the boundaries of said Underground Utility District No. 01.

Section 5. The City Clerk is hereby instructed to notify all affected utilities, and all persons owning real property within Underground Utility District No. 01, of the adoption of this Resolution within 10 days after the date of such adoption. Such notification shall be made by mailing a copy of this Resolution to all affected property owners shown on the last equalized assessment rolls and to the affected utilities.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this XX day of XXXXX, 2008, by the following vote to wit:

AYES: (0)

NOES: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

John M. Edelston, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly M. Rodrigues, City Clerk

Exhibit "A" Undergrounding Utility District No. 1

