



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works



Date: August 5, 2013
Board Meeting Date: September 10, 2013
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

Subject: Middlefield Road Underground Utility District (Phase III) from MacArthur Avenue to Flynn Avenue – North Fair Oaks Area [Project No. R8X02, Project File No. E4902000]

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution setting October 22, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at your regularly scheduled Board meeting, as the time and place for a public hearing on the formation of an underground utility district on Middlefield Road from MacArthur Avenue to Flynn Avenue.

BACKGROUND:

On January 7, 1997, your Board adopted Resolution No. 060792 establishing the Middlefield Road Underground Utility District (Phase I) from Encina Avenue to Fifth Avenue and including portions of Sixth Avenue and Semicircular Road.

On November 5, 2002, your Board adopted Resolution No. 065657 establishing the Middlefield Road Underground Utility District (Phase II) from Fifth Avenue to MacArthur Avenue.

The County Ordinance Code specifies the procedures to be used in forming underground utility districts and Section 4.40.020 of the Code requires a public hearing before an underground utility district can be formed.

DISCUSSION:

Street improvements along Middlefield Road within the limits of Phase I included construction of wider sidewalks and installation of street furniture and street trees and placement of overhead utility wires underground within the Phase I project limits. Similar construction work in connection with the Phase II limits has not occurred due to inadequate funding for the road work.

On February 6, 2012, the City of Redwood City (City) established an underground utility district on Middlefield Road from MacArthur Avenue to Main Street within the City's jurisdictional limits. The City's project will involve the undergrounding of overhead utilities and street improvements within their underground district. Although the City's underground district connects to the County's Phase II underground district, portions of Middlefield Road between MacArthur Avenue and Flynn Avenue are within the jurisdiction of both the City and the County.

In order to provide a continuous underground utility district on Middlefield Road between MacArthur Avenue and Flynn Avenue, the City has requested that the County form an underground utility district to include two half street segments of Middlefield Road that are within the County's jurisdiction. Within these limits of Middlefield Road, portions of the roadway and adjacent properties are within the County while other portions are within the City. The attached map illustrates the jurisdictional boundaries and the limits of the County's existing and proposed underground utility district boundaries on Middlefield Road. The Department is recommending that the proposed underground utility district boundaries be approved to allow for the continuous undergrounding of overhead facilities between Encina Avenue and Main Street.

The City is working to determine the street improvements to be constructed within their jurisdiction in connection with their project. The City has agreed to include in their construction contract(s) the work involved in placing the overhead utilities underground and constructing the street improvements within County's jurisdiction on Middlefield Road between Flynn Avenue and MacArthur Avenue. This work will be covered by a separate agreement between the City and County to be executed at a later date if your Board approves the underground district.

The Department is recommending that the cost to convert property connections to accept underground electrical service (ranging from approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000 per conversion) be paid with the County's allocation of the California Public Utilities Commission Rule 20A (Rule 20A) funds, as allowed by Service Planning Advice No. 3602-E issued in 2010 by that Commission. Including this cost as part of the project will help expedite the required property conversions and reduce the potential for delays that may occur when individual property owners are responsible for the cost and coordination of this work. There are approximately 13 service connections properties that will require conversion to underground service.

The undergrounding of other utilities, such as telephone, internet, cable TV, and street lights will also be done simultaneously and will be financed by the respective agencies. Middlefield Road is within the Menlo Park Highway Lighting District, which is a County-governed District.

Notices will be sent to the affected property owners in the proposed underground utility district area, hereinafter referred to as the "Middlefield Road Underground Utility District (Phase III)," indicating the impact of the proposed underground utility district on their property and notifying them of the public hearing.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this action contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Livable Community by improving our roadway facilities for use by the traveling public to support livable connected communities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost for undergrounding all electrical overhead transmission and distribution facilities and converting property connections to accept underground service will be financed with the County's Rule 20A allocations. The estimated cost for the underground work for the Middlefield Road Underground Utility District (Phase III) is approximately \$650,000, which is equivalent to approximately two years' worth of the Rule 20A allotments.

The Menlo Park Highway Lighting District will incur a cost to install two new streetlights and a supporting electrical system. The estimated cost for this work is \$40,000.

There is no impact to the General Fund.

Attachment: Middlefield Road Underground Utility Districts Boundary Map

