



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Public Works



**Date:** March 8, 2016  
**Board Meeting Date:** April 12, 2016  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

**Subject:** Modifying the Old County Road Underground Utility District Boundaries in the Harbor/Industrial Area [Project No. RD501, Project File No. E4842]

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution:

- A) Modifying the boundaries of the existing "Underground Utility District - Old County Road – Belmont Area" in the Harbor/Industrial Area; and
- B) Authorizing the Director of Public Works to make minor adjustments if necessary to the "Underground Utility District - Old County Road – Belmont Area" Boundary hereafter.

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 27, 2004, your Board adopted Resolution No. 066812 establishing the "Underground Utility District - Old County Road – Belmont Area" (UUD) on a portion of Old County Road in the Harbor/Industrial Area. The work involves coordinating with the City of Belmont to remove the existing overhead utility lines and poles and replace them with an underground utility system on a portion of Old County Road. The entire utility underground project (Project) limits are on Old County Road from the Belmont City limit north of Sterling View Avenue to approximately the County limit south of Harbor Boulevard.

The City of Belmont is the lead agency for the Project, including coordinating with PG&E for the design and construction of underground system.

**DISCUSSION:**

The undergrounding work includes the facilities of PG&E, Comcast, AT&T, and the County's Belmont Highway Lighting District, at a minimum. During field reviews of the Project by the County and affected utility companies, it was determined that the UUD

boundaries should be modified. The specific UUD boundary modifications are south of Harbor Boulevard near Belmont Creek and along an alley that connects to Old County Road north of Harbor Boulevard.

The first modification to the southern boundary of the UUD reduces the length of Old County Road to be undergrounded and eliminates placing underground utility facilities across Belmont Creek. The overhead system would remain in place in this segment and continue to be connected to the overhead system in the City of San Carlos. The second modification is to exclude the alley off of Old County Road in the UUD. Excluding the alley will not visually affect the Old County Road corridor, or the intent of placing the overhead wires underground along Old County Road. A map of the boundary modifications is shown in Exhibit A to the Resolution.

The boundary modifications will provide the utility companies with the space required to place new poles (and associated anchors) outside of the boundaries for the underground wires, from within the boundaries, to surface and connect to. Additionally, the boundary modifications will allow some parcels that were originally included in the UUD boundaries to be excluded and not be subject to the required conversion.

The County Ordinance Code allows the Director of Public Works to issue exceptions for overhead facilities based on special conditions. However, PG&E has indicated that boundary modifications are required to be consistent with their business processes. The Department is recommending that the Director of Public Works be authorized to make future minor adjustments to the UUD boundary, if necessary, to accommodate constraints that may be discovered during the Project design.

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 undergrounding overhead utility facilities to support livable connected communities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no impact to the General Fund.