



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



**Date:** September 17, 2013  
**Board Meeting Date:** October 22, 2013  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** Complied with 10-day  
Notice: Special Hearing  
Required  
**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:**

Conduct a public hearing, and after conducting the public hearing, adopt a Resolution establishing the Middlefield Road Underground Utility District (Phase III) on Middlefield Road from MacArthur Avenue to Flynn Avenue.

**BACKGROUND:**

On September 10, 2013, the Board adopted Resolution No. 072799 setting October 22, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers as the time and place for a public hearing to consider the proposed formation of said Middlefield Road Underground Utility District (Phase III).

Section 4.40.020 of the County Ordinance Code requires a public hearing before an underground utility district can be formed.

**DISCUSSION:**

Underground utility districts were previously formed by the County on Middlefield Road from Encina Avenue to MacArthur Avenue. The City of Redwood City (City) established an underground utility district on Middlefield Road from MacArthur Avenue to Main Street within the City's jurisdiction. Although the City's underground district connects to the County's previously formed underground utility district, portions of Middlefield Road between MacArthur Avenue and Flynn Avenue are within the jurisdiction of both the City and County. The City has requested that the County form an underground utility district which would include the County's half street segments between MacArthur Avenue and Flynn Avenue so that all portions of Middlefield Road between MacArthur Avenue and

Flynn Avenue, whether within the City's jurisdiction or the County's jurisdiction, will be within an underground utility district. After the County has formed such underground utility district, the City has agreed to incorporate the County portions of Middlefield Road (MacArthur Avenue to Flynn Avenue) in their project to underground the utilities and construct street improvements. The City would be the lead agency for this work and the City and County would enter into an agreement detailing the costs and terms for this work.

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.

Property owners in the Phase III area were notified of the public hearing and the impact of the proposed underground utility district on their property.

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 roads for use by the traveling public to support livable connected communities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost for undergrounding the 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 of the Middlefield Road Underground Utility District (Phase III) is approximately \$650,000, which will require approximately two years' worth of 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.