



THOMAS L. BOLICH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 410, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2160 FAX (831) 454-2385 TDD (831) 454-2123

AGENDA: JUNE 11, 2002

May 30, 2002

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: RULE 20A UNDERGROUND UTILITY PROJECTS SCHEDULE

Members of the Board:

Section "A" of the California Public Utility Commission's Electric Rule 20 requires electric utility companies to allocate a portion of their revenue to cities and counties to fund the undergrounding of overhead utilities. This provision has enabled Santa Cruz County to undertake a number of such projects in past years.

As your Board is aware, the energy crisis in California last year, and the subsequent declaration of bankruptcy by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), resulted in a deferral of work on the County's Rule 20A projects; however, PG&E is now able to resume work on projects within the County.

Presented herewith for your consideration is our annual Rule 20A project schedule update. The status of the currently scheduled projects is as follows:

1. Davenport – Central Area. PG&E is working to finalize the design of its underground facilities, after which Pacific Bell and AT&T Cable will complete their designs. Public Works is working on obtaining the easements necessary for the project. Construction could start as early as November of this year. Cost of this project is estimated to be \$1.1 million.
2. Seacliff – Commercial Area. An initial walk-through of this project with the utility companies' engineers has been completed. They are performing preliminary engineering to determine the final boundary of the district. Upon completion of that determination, Public Works will return to your Board with resolutions to create the underground district and establish the boundary. After those actions, engineering will begin on the project. Barring unforeseen complications, construction could occur in 2003-04. This project will be coordinated with the proposed County improvements on State Park Drive and Center Avenue. Cost of this project is estimated to be \$800,000.

3. East Cliff Drive – Fifth Avenue to Twelfth Avenue. The design of the utilities' new facilities would be dependent upon the completion of at least preliminary plans by the County of pedestrian and roadway improvements on this segment of East Cliff Drive. If the County's project moves ahead, construction of the utility undergrounding project could occur in 2004.

Those are the three projects that your Board has previously prioritized. From previous discussions your Board, and Public Works have been made aware of other potential undergrounding projects, including portions of Graham Hill Road, Corralitos Road/Corralitos Town Center, a portion of Ben Lomond, the Rio Del Mar Esplanade, and Lake Avenue and Fifth Avenue along the Small Craft Harbor.

At this time, our department is reviewing the priority of these future projects. Lake and Fifth Avenues are scheduled for improvements in 2002-03, and staff is working with the utility companies to include conduits in the County's project so that trenching can be minimized when the undergrounding project occurs in several years.

It is proposed that Public Works staff seek input from each supervisor regarding potential projects and priorities, and return to the Board with a further report on future projects.

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Accept and file this report on the status of the County's Rule 20A underground utility projects.
2. Direct Public Works staff to develop a recommended list of future undergrounding projects and report back to the Board on or before November 19, 2002.

Yours truly,

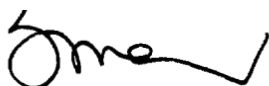


for - THOMAS L. BOLICH
Director of Public Works

CDR:abc

Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer

copy to: Pacific Bell
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
AT&T Broadband
Charter Communications
Public Works

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