



**CITY OF FORT BRAGG**

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**COUNCIL COMMITTEE ITEM SUMMARY REPORT**

**MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**  
**TO: PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE**  
**FROM: CHANTELL O'NEAL**  
**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: CONSIDER ESTABLISHING AN UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT TO SECURE RULE 20 WORK CREDITS AND AVOID BECOMING AN IN-ACTIVE DISTRICT**

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**BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW:**

The City has received notification from Pacific Gas and Electric Company Rule 20 Program Liaison that we have become an inactive Community under the Rule 20 Tariff regulations and that if we remain inactive, we are subject to reallocation of work credits to active communities. The City currently has approximately \$1.3 million in eligible credits that are only accessible if we become an active community by; Selecting a Qualifying Project Location; Holding a Public Hearing, and Adopting a Resolution to allocate the use of those work credits. Alternately, if we choose to remain inactive, we will be subject to partial work credit loss in approximately 90 days.

Information to Consider:

- On June 3, 2021, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) of the State of California passed their *Phase 1 Decision Revising Electric Rule 20 And Enhancing Program Oversight*. This Decision described in the Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) rulemaking accessible by browsing: <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M387/K099/387099230.PDF>. Rulemaking 17-05-010; describes an overhaul to the PUCs program including a potential loss of all work credits for communities who are not actively in a project phase which should be considered when determine if moving forward with a district identification is appropriate at this time.
- PG&E and the CPUC are currently preparing a Guide Book that outlines the process to underground electric distribution infrastructure. The Guide Book is expected to be available after October 1, 2021.

- A project could be programmed in correlation to a City project or PG&E can be the Lead on a projects design and implementation facilitated by City Staff.

### **CONSISTENCY:**

General Plan Land Use Element 2, Policy LU-6.4 Establishes a requirement for Underground districts.

Policy LU-6.4: Electrical and telecommunications transmission rights-of-way and pipelines shall be routed to minimize impacts to scenic resources and to Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas according to the following standards:

- a) Require underground installation of electrical and telecommunication lines where technically and economically feasible, unless it can be shown that other options are less environmentally damaging.
- b) Scarring, grading, or other vegetative removal shall be minimized and construction areas shall be revegetated with plants native to the area.
- c) Where above-ground electrical or telecommunications transmission lines are necessary, the design and color of the support towers shall be compatible with the surroundings to the extent feasible. Avoid locating above-ground

City Council Passed by Ordinance 382 in 1969, establishing Fort Bragg Municipal Code (FBMC) Chapter 12.08 Underground Utility Districts which would be use to establish proceeding should Committee direct staff to bring forward a District location to the full Council for consideration. Chapter 12.08 of the FBMC is located at <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/FortBragg/#!/html/FortBragg12/FortBragg1208.html#12.08.030>

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Provide direction to staff regarding the potential establishment of an underground district by: Recommending a Preferred Undergrounding District and Scheduling a Public Hearing of the full Council to Consider Approving a Resolution Authorizing establishment of District to Secure RULE 20 Work Credits for a Future Project.

OR

Direct staff to allow expiration of Rule 20 Work Credits.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

ATT 1 – Electric Rule No. 20 Information Sheet

ATT 2 – Sample PG&E Provided Template Resolution

ATT 3 – Potential Underground Utility Districts