UNDERGROUND DISTRICT NO. 6

What community should know about Rule 20A

BACKGROUND

Discussions of a Rule 20A project began September 2021 following contact by PG&E Staff regarding "in-active" status

No Reallocation letter received to date for current credits

- City Staff met with PG&E on December 2, 2021 for a site walk to;
 Verify that the project qualifies under the Rule 20A Tariff;
 - determine the potential operational and other impacts (possible riser pole location sites) of the proposed boundary and suggest modifications if necessary;
 - PG&E determined the community allocation account does not have adequate credits to move forward with the whole project and recommended a phased approach.



Chestnut Street Corridor

Feet

1,000

500

介

0

CHALLENGES



The RULE 20 program is undergoing changes in guidance by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), so there are many unknowns at this time.

•Every transformer on a pole that is undergrounded requires either acquisition of easements for placement of pad-mount transformers above ground on private property or placement in public right-of-way via a sub-surface vault which requires payment from City of a 1 time fee per transformer.

 Environmental Issues (cultural resources, groundwater, endangered species, contamination, etc.)

Streetlights are owned by PG&E

CHALLENGES

- Utility Coordination
- ADA Upgrades
- Value of Credits vs. Inflation
- Cost of individual Panel Service Modification
- 100' of Service Trench per customer
- Electric Panel Conversion Reimbursement (include in total cost to be covered for all panel conversions or individual reimbursement)
- See Section 3 & 4 of the "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED" section of the resolution



RESOLUTION EXCERPTS

Section 3. The electric utility shall use the underground conversion allocation computed pursuant to decisions of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California for the purpose of providing to each premises in Underground Utility District No. 6 - Chestnut Street requiring it a maximum of one hundred (100) feet of individual electric or communication service trenching and conductor (as well as backfill, paving and conduit, if required) and each other serving utility will provide service trenching and conductor in accordance with its tariffs on file with the California Public Utilities Commission or as required by its Franchise Agreement with the City.

Section 4. The electric utility shall use said underground conversion allowance allocation, for the conversion of electric service panels to accept underground service in the Underground Utility District No. 6 – Chestnut Street, all costs not covered by the electric utility for the installation and maintenance of the conduit and termination box located on, under or within any structure on the premises served,

CHAPTER 12.08 OF THE FBMC ESTABLISHES;

Once Council creates the underground utility district and orders the removal of overhead facilities, it is unlawful for any person or utility to erect, construct, place, keep, maintain, continue, employ, or operate poles, overhead wires, and associated overhead structures in the district.

Exception- overhead facilities may be installed and maintained for a period, not to exceed ten (10) days, without authority of the City Council in order to provide emergency service or when deemed by Councils special permission under unusual circumstances.

Persons owning affected properties shall construct (have constructed) the portion of the service connection on their property to the facilities in accordance with utility regulations.

TIMELINE

- 12.08 also requires the City establish a timeline under which the underground installation shall be accomplished.
- Rule 20As normally take 5-7 years from onset of planning to removal of poles.

Staff is proposing a 10 year horizon, Council should provide direction on whether its achievable to have undergrounded the whole district in that timeframe or only one segment if we choose a phased approach.

RECOMMENDATION

Determine if the phased approach is appropriate and direct staff which optional section of the district is preferred;

Concur on the Electric Panel Conversion Reimbursement cost will be covered from the Rule 20A funds as proposed in the resolution;

Define the completion horizon;

Identify funding sources for budget purposes

ALTERNATE ACTION(S)

Open and Continue the Public Hearing to a date certain in order to obtain additional information, or

Wait until we receive the 90-day notice regarding potential reallocation and establish a district at that time, or

Decide not to designate and direct staff to allow expiration of RULE 20 Work Credits.