



Date of Notice: October 15, 2018

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A
PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND
A SCOPING MEETING
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE: The City of San Diego as the Lead Agency has determined that the project described below will require the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This Notice of Preparation of a PEIR and Scoping Meeting was publicly noticed and distributed on October 15, 2018. This notice was published in the SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT and placed on the City of San Diego website at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/notices/index.shtml>

and on the Planning Department website at:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/ceqa>

SCOPING MEETING: A public scoping meeting will be held by the City of San Diego's Planning Department on **Tuesday, October 23, 2018** from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Auditorium at the San Diego Public Utilities Department located at 9192 Topaz Way, San Diego, CA 92123. **Please note that depending on the number of attendees, the meeting could end earlier than 7:30 PM.** The scoping meeting will be conducted in a workshop format where staff will provide a brief PowerPoint presentation to the public about the project scope, environmental issues to be analyzed in the PEIR, and how to comment on the NOP. Written comments regarding the scope of environmental issues and alternatives to be analyzed within the proposed PEIR will be accepted at the meeting.

Written, email, or mail-in comments may also be sent to the following address: **Myra Herrmann, Environmental Planner, City of San Diego Planning Department, 9485 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123** or e-mail your comments to PlanningCEQA@sandiego.gov with the Project Name in the subject line within 30 days of the date of the Public Notice above (**November 14, 2018**).

Responsible agencies are requested to indicate their statutory responsibilities in connection with this project when responding. A PEIR incorporating public input will then be prepared and distributed to the public for review and comment.

PROJECT NAME/PROJECT NUMBER: Utilities Undergrounding Program / Project No. N/A
COMMUNITY PLAN AREAS: Citywide
COUNCIL DISTRICTS: All

PROJECT BACKGROUND: In 1967, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued Decision 73078, which established rules for electric and communication utility service

connections and overhead conversions. The Decision also created tariff rules, titled Rule 20, which mandated that utilities allocate funds annually for the conversion of existing overhead utility lines to underground. Part A of Rule 20 requires San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) to fund the conversion of overhead electric lines which meet the criteria of focusing on high traffic densities and tourism areas.

In 2002, the CPUC approved an additional mechanism (CPUC Energy Division Resolution E-3788) for funding and executing undergrounding work within the City jurisdiction to improve public safety, community character, and visual quality. A Surcharge Fund was established by applying an underground surcharge component to residents' electric bills, managed separately from the City's General Fund. The Surcharge program also funds street resurfacing, curb ramps, street lights and street trees within each undergrounding project boundary. Council Policy 600-08 (CP600-08) was established to guide the management of funds and execution of projects under this new funding mechanism. In addition, Chapter 06, Article 01, Division 05 of the Municipal Code includes details on the undergrounding process, including interaction with the City Council, responsibilities to residents, and overall undergrounding requirements and definitions.

The Utilities Undergrounding Program (Program) is managed by the City's Transportation & Storm Water Department in coordination with SDG&E and other utilities which provide telephone, cable television, and broadband services throughout the City. The Program has a goal of undergrounding approximately 15 miles of overhead utility lines each year. Approximately 406 miles of overhead utilities have been converted to underground as of July 2016, and approximately 1,000 miles of overhead utility lines remain to be undergrounded to date.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed activities under the Program would consist of the systematic conversion of overhead utilities to underground throughout the City of San Diego. The implementation of proposed activities would occur based on a prioritization system developed by the City and would be implemented in five-year increments.

The Utilities Undergrounding Program consists of two types of projects: one involves SDG&E Rule 20A projects that must meet certain public benefit criteria consistent with the CPUC's statewide program. This program relates primarily to overhead lines along major city streets. The other type is known as a Surcharge project in which the project is funded by the increased franchise fee authorized by the CPUC in Resolution E-3788. Projects that fall into the surcharge category are typically found in residential areas that do not meet Rule 20A criteria.

The Utilities Undergrounding Program Master Plan (Master Plan) was developed in 2003 and updated most recently in 2018 to guide the allocation of both Rule 20A and Surcharge projects for the duration of the Program. The Master Plan outlines the geographic boundary, estimated cost, and other parameters for future projects covering all areas in the City where undergrounding is needed. The Master Plan is the governing document for how the Program will execute its future projects and activities.

All undergrounding projects under the Program undergo the following six-stage process:

- **Allocation:** In this phase, City Council approves the identification and initiation of new undergrounding projects.
- **Public Hearing Process:** Undergrounding projects are required to complete the environmental review process after which an underground utility district is created

through noticed public hearings to hear from residents and property owners that reside within the proposed utility district.

- **Design:** The 12- to 24-month design process includes a pre-design meeting to inform property owners and community members about the project and its design considerations and gather their input for design teams regarding utility box and streetlight locations, as well as street tree preservations and plantings associated with the project.
- **Notification Process:** Once the design for the subject Underground Utility District is complete, property owners are invited to a community forum to give input on the placement of utility boxes, streetlights, and other areas where project flexibility remains.
- **Construction Process:** Construction of new underground utility systems and the subsequent removal of overhead utility systems consists of trenching or tunneling, cabling, cut-overs (switch all properties over to the new underground system), and pole removal. The construction phase would typically last 18 to 36 months.
- **Post-Construction Activities:** Once the new underground utility lines are in place, the City will install curb ramps, replace street lights, plant new street trees, and repair damaged pavement.

PROJECT LOCATION: Citywide. All activities associated with implementation of the Program would generally be located within the City's geographic boundaries and jurisdiction. The City of San Diego land area covers nearly 372 square miles and is located in the southwestern corner of California, within the county of San Diego. The gray areas on Figure 1 represent the Proposed Utilities Undergrounding Districts that will be analyzed in the PEIR within the City's jurisdictional boundaries.

APPLICANT: City of San Diego, Transportation & Storm Water Department

RECOMMENDED FINDING: Pursuant to Section 15060(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, it appears that the proposed project may result in significant environmental impacts in the following areas: **Land Use, Visual Effects and Neighborhood Character, Air Quality/Odor, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Biological Resources, Historical (Built-Environment and Archaeology) and Tribal Cultural Resources, Hydrology, Water Quality, Noise, Paleontological Resources, and Solid Waste.**

AVAILABILITY IN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT: To request this Notice in alternative format, call the Planning Department at (619) 235-5200 OR (800) 735-2929 (TEXT TELEPHONE).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For environmental review information, contact Myra Herrmann at (619) 446-5372. For information regarding public meetings/hearings on this project, contact the Project Manager, Donna Chralowicz, at (619) 533-3722. This notice was published in the SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT and distributed on October 15, 2018.

Alyssa Muto
Deputy Director
Planning Department

DISTRIBUTION: See Attached
ATTACHMENTS: Figure 1 – Project Location

DISTRIBUTION LIST:

Copies of the NOP were distributed to the following individuals, organizations, and agencies:

Federal Government

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, SW Division, Environmental Planning (12)
MCAS Miramar (13)
US Environmental Protection Agency (19)
US Border Patrol (22)
US Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, Shelly Lynch (26)
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Pat Gower (23)

State of California

Caltrans, District 11 (31)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (32)
Cal EPA (37A)
Toxic Substance Control (39)
California State Parks (40A)
California Natural Resources Agency (43)
Regional Water Quality Control Board: Region 9 (44)
Department of Water Resources (45)
State Clearinghouse (46)
California Coastal Commission, San Diego District (47)
California Air Resources Board (49)
California Transportation Commission (51)
State Water Resources Control Board (55)
Native American Heritage Commission (56)
California Department of Parks and Recreation (345)
California Department of Parks and Recreation (371)
Eric Becker, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, South Coast Region, Kelly Fisher

County of San Diego

Air Pollution Control District (65)
Department of Planning and Development Services (68)
Department of Parks and Recreation (69)
Department of Public Works (72)
County Water Authority (73)
Department of Environmental Health (75)
Land & Water Quality Division (76)

City of San Diego

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Kristy Forburger, Senior Planner
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Susan Morrison, Associate Planner

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James Nabong, Program Manager
Donna Chralowicz, Senior Planner
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Sameera Rao, Project Officer I

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Elyse Lowe, Director
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Anna McPherson, Program Manager
Angela Nazareno, Development Project Manager III
Helene Deisher, Development Project Manager II

Communications Department

Anthony Santacroce

Environmental Services Department

Mario Sierra, Director
Lisa Wood, Program Manager
Jane-Marie Fajardo, Senior Planner

Parks and Recreation Department

Herman Parker, Director
Jeannette DeAngelis, Deputy Director – Open Space Division
Laura Ball, Project Officer II

Public Utilities Department

Matt Vespi, Interim Director
Keli Balo, Project Officer II
Nicole McGinnis, Senior Planner

Public Works Department

James Nagelvoort, Director
Carrie Purcell, Assistant Deputy Director
James Arnhart, Project Officer II

Real Estate Assets Department

Cybele Thompson, Director
Susan Taylor

City Libraries

Library Gov't Documents Department (81 & 81A)
Balboa Branch Library (81B)
Beckwourth Branch Library (81 C)
Benjamin Branch Library (81D)
Carmel Mountain Ranch Branch (81 E)
Carmel Valley Branch Library (81 F)
City Heights/Weingart Branch Library (81G)
Clairemont Branch Library (81 H)
College-Rolando Branch Library (81 I)
Kensington-Normal Heights Branch Library (81K)
La Jolla/Riford branch Library (81 L)
Linda Vista Branch Library (81 M)
Logan Heights Branch Library (81 N)
Malcolm X Library & Performing Arts Center (81O)
Mira Mesa Branch Library (81P)
Mission Hills Branch Library (81 Q)
Mission Valley Branch Library (81 R)
North Clairemont Branch Library (81 S)
North Park Branch Library (81 T)
Oak Park Branch Library (81 U)
Ocean Beach Branch Library (81 V)
Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library (81 W)
Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library (81 V)
Paradise Hills Branch Library (81 Y)
Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library (81 Z)
Rancho Bernardo Branch Library (81AA)
Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library (81BB)
READ/San Diego (81CC)
San Carlos Branch Library (81DD)
San Ysidro Branch Library (81 EE)
Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library (81 FF)
Serra Mesa Branch Library (81 GG)
Skyline Hills Branch Library (81 HH)
Tierrasanta Branch Library (81 II)
University Community Branch Library (81JJ)
North University Branch University (81JJJ)
University Heights Branch Library (81 KK)

Other City Governments

City of Chula Vista (94)
City of Del Mar (96)
City of Escondido (98)
City of Imperial Beach
City of La Mesa (100)
City of Lemon Grove (101)
City of National City (102)
City of Poway (103)
City of Santee

Other Agencies

County Water Authority (73)
SANDAG (108)
San Diego Unified Port District (109)
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (110)
Metropolitan Transit System (112, 115)
San Diego Gas & Electric (114, 381)

School Districts

Poway Unified School District (124)
SDUSD, Tony Raso (125)
San Dieguito Union High School District (126)
San Ysidro School District (127)
South Bay Unified School District (130)
San Diego City Schools (132)
San Diego Community College District (133)
UCSD Library (134)

Community Groups, Associations, Boards, and Committees

Community Planning Committee (194)
Balboa Park Committee (226 and 226A)
Black Mountain Ranch-Subarea I (226C)
Otay Mesa-Nestor Planning Committee (228)
Otay Mesa Planning Committee (235)
Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee (248)
Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (259)
Serra Mesa Planning Committee (263A)
Kearney Mesa Community Planning Group (265)
Linda Vista Community Planning Committee (267)
La Jolla Community Planning Association (275)
City Heights Area Planning Committee (287)
Kensington-Talmadge Planning Committee (290)
Normal Heights Community Planning Committee (291)
Eastern Area Planning Committee (302)
North Bay Community Planning Committee (307)
Mira Mesa Community Planning Committee (310)
Mission Bay Park Committee (320)
Mission Beach Precise Planning Board (325)
Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (336)
Carmel Valley Community Planning Board (350)
Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board (361)
North Park Planning Committee (363)
Ocean Beach Planning Board (367)
Old Town Community Planning Board (368)
Pacific Beach Community Planning Committee (375)
Pacific Highlands Ranch-Subarea III (377A)
Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board (380)
Peninsula Community Planning Board (390)
Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board (400)
Sabre Springs Community Planning Group (406B)
San Dieguito River Park Joint Power Authority (425A)
San Pasqual-Lake Hodges Planning Group (426)
San Ysidro Planning and Development Group (433)
Scripps Miramar Ranch Planning Group (437)

Miramar Ranch North Planning Committee (439)
Skyline Paradise Hills Planning Committee (443)
Torrey Hills Community Planning Board (444A)
Civic San Diego (448)
Southeastern San Diego Planning Committee (449)
Encanto Neighborhoods Community Planning Group (449A)
College Area Community Planning Board (456)
Malcolm A. Love Library, SDSU (457)
Tierrasanta Community Council (462)
Torrey Highlands – Subarea IV (467)
Torrey Pines Community Planning Board (469)
University City Community Planning Group (480)
Uptown Planners (498)

Town/Community Councils

Town Council Presidents Association (197)
Barrio Station, Inc. (241)
Downtown Community Council (243)
Harborview Community Council (245)
Clairemont Town Council (257)
Serra Mesa Community Council (264)
La Jolla Town Council (273)
Rolando Community Council (288)
Oak Park Community Council (298)
Darnell Community Council (306)
Mission Beach Town Council (326)
Mission Valley Community Council (328C)
San Carlos Area Council (338)
Carmel Mountain Ranch Community Council (344)
Ocean Beach Town Council, Inc. (367A)
Pacific Beach Town Council (374)
Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council (383)
Rancho Bernardo Community Council, Inc. (398)
San Dieguito Planning Group (412)
United Border Community Town Council (434)
Murphy Canyon Community Council (463)

Historical, Archaeological and Tribal Groups

Carmen Lucas (206)
South Coastal Information Center (210)
San Diego Historical Society (211)
San Diego Archaeological Center (212)
Save Our Heritage Organization (214)
Ron Chrisman (215)
Clint Linton (215B)
Frank Brown, Inter-Tribal Cultural Resource Council (216)
Campo Band of Mission Indians (217)
San Diego County Archaeological Society Inc. (218)
Native American Heritage Commission (222)
Kuumeyaay Cultural Heritage Preservation (223)
Kuumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee (225)

Native American Distribution

Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians (225A)
Campo Band of Mission Indians (225B)
Ewiiapaayp Band of Mission Indians (225C)
Inaja Band of Mission Indians (225D)
Jamul Indian Village (225E)
La Posta Band of Mission Indians (225F)
Manzanita Band of Mission Indians (225G)
Sycuan Band of Mission Indians (225H)
Viejas Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians (225I)
Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians (225J)
San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians (225K)
Iipai Nation of Santa Ysabel (225L)
La Jolla Band of Mission Indians (225M)
Pala Band of Mission Indians (225N)
Pauma Band of Mission Indians (225O)
Pechanga Band of Mission Indians (225P)
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians (225Q)
San Luis Rey Band of Luiseno Indians (225R)
Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians (225S)

Other Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

Daily Transcript
San Diego Chamber of Commerce (157)
Building Industry Association (158)
Sierra Club San Diego Chapter (165)
San Diego Canyonlands, Eric Bowlby (165A)
San Diego Natural History Museum (166)
San Diego Audubon Society (167)
Jim Peugh (167A, 324)
San Diego River Conservancy (168)
Environmental Health Coalition (169)
California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter (170)
San Diego Coastkeeper, Matt O'Malley (173)
Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 (179)
Endangered Habitats League, San Diego Chapter (182A)
Janet Vadakkumcherry (236)
Balboa Avenue CAC (246)
Mary Johnson (263B/328B)
MCAS Miramar (263C)
La Jolla Shores Association (272)
Theresa Quiroz (294)
Fox Canyon Neighborhood Association Inc. (285)
William Jones – Citylink (296)
Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association (303)
John Stump (304)
Friends of Los Penasquitos Preserve, Inc. (313)
Surfers Tired of Pollution (318)
Debby Knight, Friends of Rose Canyon (320)
Mission Hills Association (327)
Friars Village HOA (328A)
Mary Johnson (328B)
San Diego River Conservancy (330A)
Friends of the Mission Valley Preserve (330B)

Mission Valley Unified Planning Group (331)
San Diego River Park Foundation (333, 335)
Mission Trails Regional Park CAC (341)
Diana Gordan (355)
Torrey Pines Association (379)
Los Penasquitos Lagoon Foundation, Mike Hastings (384)
Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve CAC (385)
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee (409)
San Dieguito River Park CAC (415)
Friends of San Dieguito River Valley (421)
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy (422)
RVR PARC (423)
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy (422)
San Dieguito River Park JPA (425A, 432B)
Beeler Canyon Conservancy (436)
Jim Dawe (445)
Encanto Neighborhoods Community Planning Group (449A)
Kathleen Harmon – Chair, Central Imperial PAC (452)
W. Anthony Fulton, Director – SDSU Facilities & Mgmt. (455)
Malcolm A. Love Library, SDSU (457)
Mission Trails Regional Park, Dorothy Leonard (465)
University City Community Assn. (486)
Hillside Protection Assn. (501)
Banker's Hill Canyon Assn. (502)
Allen Canyon Committee (504)
Asian Business Association, Robert Ito
Asian Pacific American Coalition, Michael Wong
Clairemont Chamber of Commerce, Richard Morris
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FilAm Chamber of Commerce of San Diego, William Peetoom
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Figure 1: Project Location

