



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Fahey and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Neil C. Miller, Director of Public Works
Dana Greenwood, City Engineer
Michael A. Guerrero, Senior Civil Engineer

DATE: April 5, 2005

SUBJECT: Report regarding Status of Underground Utility Assessment Districts 1/3/5 including Estimated Construction Schedule, Status of Design for Underground Utility Assessment Districts 2/4/6, and Status of Sepulveda Boulevard Underground Utility Project

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the report regarding:

- A) Status of Districts 1/3/5 including estimated construction schedule
- B) Status of design for Districts 2/4/6
- C) Status of Sepulveda Boulevard underground utility project

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications regarding this status report.

DISCUSSION:

Underground Utility Assessment Districts 1/3/5:

The boundaries of the subject Districts generally include the following:

- UUAD 04-1: The Strand to Manhattan Avenue from 26th Street to Rosecrans Avenue
- UUAD 04-3: Manhattan Avenue to Highland Avenue from 26th Street to Rosecrans Avenue
- UUAD 04-5: The Strand to Highland Avenue from Marine Avenue to 26th Street

Property owners in these Districts voted and approved to assess themselves for the undergrounding work at the City Council meeting of 03/16/04. Since that time, the utility companies have delayed the start of construction on these Districts. At the City Council meeting of 02/01/05, the utility companies made a presentation to the City Council and discussed the reasons for the delays. The utility companies stated that they estimated that work on the projects would start in April, 2005. The utility companies made another presentation to the City Council on 03/15/05 and stated that the project construction contractor had been selected and approved and that work on the Districts would commence on 04/04/05.

Based on the utility companies start date of 04/04/05, City staff has estimated that the project schedule will proceed as follows:

- April, 2005 Start civil construction (manholes, vaults, conduit, etc.) (12 months)
- March, 2006 Complete civil construction
- April, 2006 Start installation of wiring, cabling, transformers, etc. (6 months)
- Sept, 2006 Complete installation of wiring, cabling, transformers
Energize new underground utility system
- Oct, 2006 Start service connection conversions by property owners (6 months)
- March, 2007 Complete service connection conversions
- April, 2007 Start overhead wire and pole removal (4 months)
- July, 2007 Complete overhead wire and pole removal

It should be noted that upon completion of the wiring/cabling and energizing of the new underground utility system that both the existing overhead system and the new underground system will be in operation simultaneously. Property owners will not have an interruption in their utility service other than the time of the energizing of the new underground system and during their actual conversion cut-over from overhead to underground. The utility companies will not start the removal of overhead wires and poles until 100% of the affected property owners complete their service connection conversion work on their property. In order to maintain the 6-month deadline for this item of work it may be necessary for the City to complete the work on behalf of the property owner. The City would then be reimbursed by the property owner for the work on their property. This issue is discussed in further detail in Section 7.28.100 "Undergrounding of Public Utility Facilities: Responsibility of Property Owner" of the Manhattan Beach Municipal Code.

Underground Utility Assessment Districts 2/4/6:

The boundaries of the subject Districts generally include the following:

- UUAD 04-2: Ardmore Avenue to Poinsettia Avenue from 2nd Street to 8th Street
- UUAD 04-4: Ardmore Avenue to Sepulveda Boulevard from Duncan Avenue to 2nd Street
- UUAD 04-6: The Strand to Highland Avenue from 15th Street to Marine Avenue

These Districts are currently in design by the utility companies. Southern California Edison has submitted preliminary plans for Districts 2/4/6. City staff has reviewed and submitted comments on SCE's plans. SCE is currently modifying their plans per the City's comments. SCE estimates that they will submit the completed design plans by the end of April, 2005. Verizon submitted preliminary plans for Districts 2/4 which City staff reviewed and commented on. Based on those comments Verizon submitted completed design plans for Districts 2/4. Verizon has not yet submitted their design plans for District 6. Verizon estimates that they will submit preliminary design plans for District 6 by the end of April, 2005. City staff will review Verizon's plans and submit comments as appropriate.

Once the design plans have been completed City staff presents them to the affected property owners at a community meeting. Modifications may be made to the plans based upon input from the property owners. Upon completion of any plan modifications the City Council will need to pass a resolution of Notice of Intention for the proposed underground utility work which initiates the process for the Assessment Districts. Ballots are subsequently mailed to the affected property owners in the Districts. After a 45-day period the mailed ballot votes are tallied at a City Council

meeting and the results are tabulated. It is estimated that the Notice of Intention for Districts 2/4/6 may be initiated in the fourth quarter of 2005 or early 2006 depending on the submittal schedule of final design plans by the utility companies.

Southern California Edison will be in attendance at the City Council meeting to answer any questions regarding the status and schedule of the various Districts.

Sepulveda Boulevard Underground Utility District

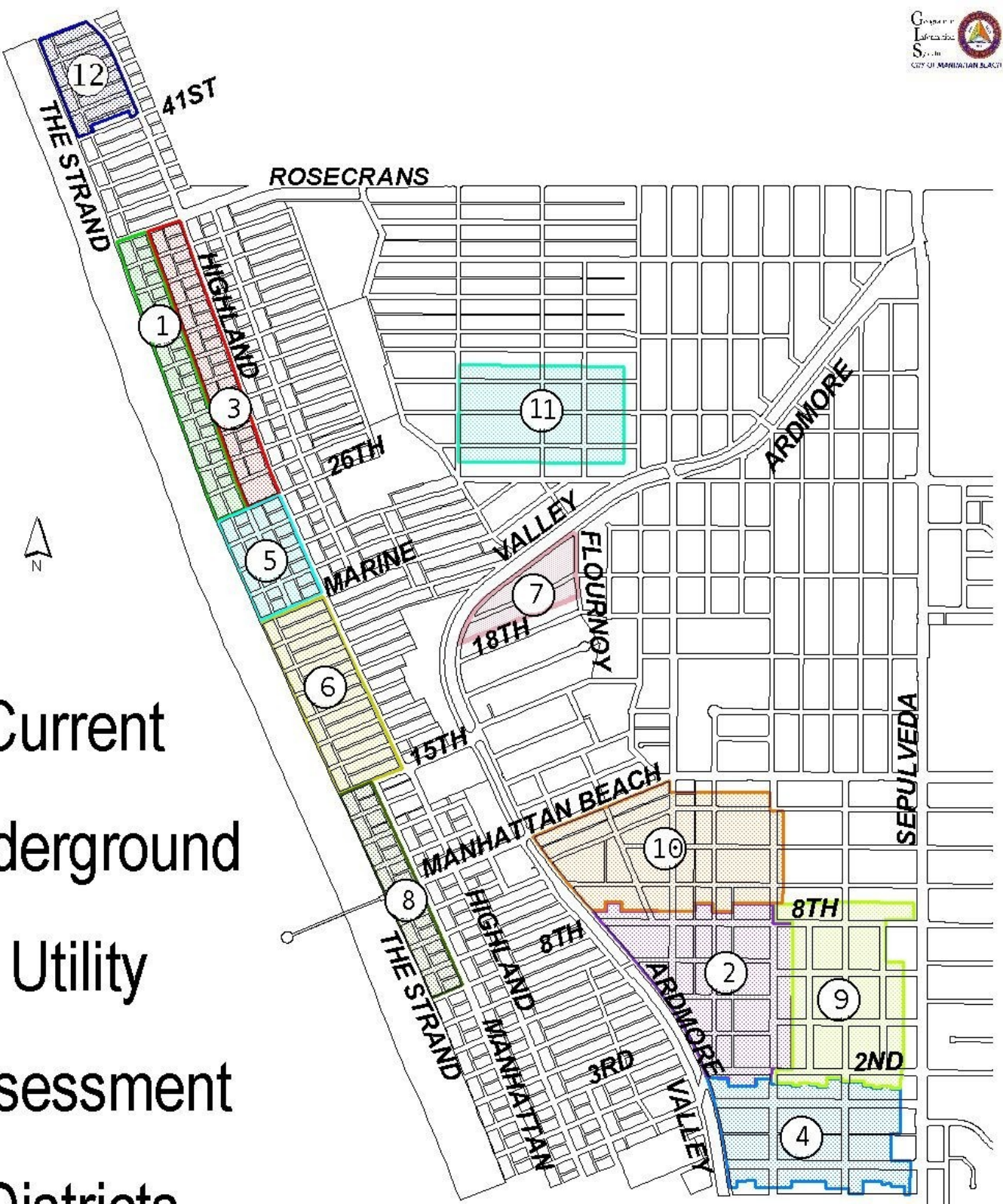
City staff and the utility companies are also working on an Underground Utility District along the entire length of Sepulveda Boulevard within the City from Artesia Boulevard to Rosecrans Avenue. This project is fully funded through SCE's Rule 20A program in the amount of \$2 million so that no City funds are required for the project. SCE has submitted plans to the City for the underground work on their utility system. SCE's plans have been forwarded to Verizon so that they can incorporate the work on their respective utility system. Verizon has not yet submitted plans for the work on their system. Although the City has requested design schedule information from Verizon, Verizon has not submitted an estimated completion date for submittal of their plans.

Property Owner Communications

As construction proceeds in Districts 1/3/5 property owners will receive periodic notices from the City regarding key elements of the construction work. This may include progress updates on the construction work and milestone updates of the various phases of the project as shown previously in this report. This will be especially critical when it comes time for property owners to begin making their service connection conversions to the new underground system and as the deadline for the conversions approaches. The City has also requested that SCE/Verizon or their contractor provide residents with periodic notices to residents that will be immediately affected by the work as the project progresses. The Public Works Department will continue to maintain the webpage on the City's website with current information regarding all undergrounding projects. Also, the City Council Sub-Committee may continue to meet on an as needed basis as both construction on Districts 1/3/5 and design and the voting process for Districts 2/4/6 progresses.

Attachments: A. Citywide UUAD Map

Current Underground Utility Assessment Districts



01/10/2005

