



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
May 7, 2008**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Tim Tucker, City Engineer
SUBJECT: Council Priorities on Future Utility Undergrounding Projects
DATE: April 18, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction to staff regarding future utility undergrounding project priorities.

BACKGROUND:

At the September 21, 2005 City Council Public Hearing, the Council adopted resolutions establishing two downtown undergrounding districts. Most of the downtown commercial area has been undergrounded. The two Utility Undergrounding Districts approved would complete most of the undergrounding in the downtown area. The two districts include the following streets:

Underground Utility District 2005-1

- Marina Vista, from Ferry Street to Berrellesa Street, including portions of Ferry Street, Estudillo Street, Castro Street, Escobar Street and Alhambra Avenue.

Underground Utility District 2005-2

- Ward Street, from Castro Street to Las Juntas Street.
- Estudillo Street, from Ward Street to Green Street.
- Las Juntas Street, from Main Street to Green Street.

The Marina Vista District (2005-1) is being combined with the Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Grant project. The project will not only underground utilities, but also install decorative street lights, street trees, paver sidewalks, curb bulb-outs and other street and pedestrian amenities. Meetings necessary to initiate the project have taken place with Caltrans and utility companies. Staff has recently issued a Request for Proposals to hire a design team including a landscape architect, underground utility designer and civil engineer for the project.

In an effort to minimize disruption to the downtown the two projects are not planned to be constructed at the same time. No work is currently planned for the Ward Street (2005-2) undergrounding project.

With the recent completion of the Alhambra Avenue Improvement Project, the unsightly overhead utilities have become even more visible. Community members and several Council members have indicated a desire to investigate the possibility of undergrounding the overhead lines between Highway 4 and Alhambra Valley Road. This section of road is designated both an arterial roadway and a scenic route in the City's General Plan. This segment of roadway will likely qualify for PG&E Rule 20A funding due to these two designations.

Staff would like to provide the City Council with an opportunity to look at their previous undergrounding project priorities in light of the completion of the Alhambra Avenue project. The Ward Street utility undergrounding project is the next scheduled project after the Marina Vista TLC and undergrounding project is completed. Current funding levels in the near future will not enable us to do both the Ward Street and Alhambra projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As of June 30, 2007 the City has a \$1,553,000 Rule 20A work credit balance. The City receives approximately \$200,000 in Rule 20A funding each year. Cities are allowed to borrow funds up to five years into the future in order to complete projects. Based on this there should be adequate Rule 20A funds to complete two projects. The City will need to budget funds for its share of the project costs, including design, street lighting and street light conduit trenching. The preliminary funding for the basic undergrounding projects is presented below:

<u>Estimated Funding</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rule 20A	\$1,553,000
Rule 20A advance	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
SUB TOTAL	\$2,553,000
 Marina Vista	 <\$1,000,000>
 Available funding	 \$1,553,000
 <u>Alternate project costs</u>	
Ward Street	\$1,000,000
Alhambra Avenue	\$1,400,000

Undergrounding projects require cities pay their share of the project associated with street lights and conduits. The cost varies from project to project. Our share of any could be funded by a combination of TLC (Marina Vista only) and Gas Tax funds. Our share is estimated to be between 15% and 20% of the total project cost and will be allocated through the CIP process.

ACTION:

Provide direction to staff regarding utility undergrounding project priorities.

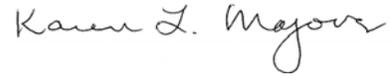
Attachments: Vicinity Maps

APPROVED BY:



City Manager

APPROVED BY:



Assistant City Manager Community &
Economic Development