

UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING



Harris & Associates



FULL-SERVICE SCOPE OF WORK

Services for Petition

- Preliminary cost estimate
- Petition review and certification

Preliminary Design

- Topographic/location survey
- Joint trench intent plans
- Coordination with utility companies

Final Design

- Composite joint trench plans
- Construction bid documents
- Construction cost estimate
- Utility company coordination

Development of Engineer's Report

- Development of parcel database
- Benefit methodology analysis
- Assessment diagram preparation
- Community meetings

Formal Establishment Process

- City Council meeting presentations
- Notices and ballots prepared and mailed
- Community information meeting
- Ballot tabulation
- 30-day cash-collection notices

Undergrounding 101

Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Rule 20 program is intended to help communities convert portions of their existing electric utility lines from the traditional overhead lines to underground lines. The California Public Utilities Commission first mandated Electric Rule 20 in the year 1967. Currently, utility companies with overhead facilities underground approximately 30 miles of overhead per year. This undergrounding work is completed under electric and telephone Rules 20 and 32 filed with the California Public Utilities Commission.

RULE 20A/32.1

Projects performed under Rule 20A/32.1 are nominated by a city, county or municipal agency and discussed with the electric and telephone companies. The costs are then recovered through subsequent utility rates after project completion. These projects are typically in areas of the community that are used most often by the general public. In order to qualify for undergrounding work, the governing body of a city or county must consult with electric and telephone companies and hold public hearings to determine if specific criteria apply.

RULE 20B/32.2

Projects performed under Rule 20B/32.2 are typically done with larger developments or in areas that do not qualify under Rule 20A/32.1. The applicant/developer/city is responsible for the installation of the conduit, substructures and boxes, as well as paying for the cost to complete the installation of the underground (electric, telephone and cable) system. PG&E provides a credit in the amount of an equivalent overhead system.

RULE 20C

Projects performed under Rule 20C are smaller projects involving few property owners or where neither Rule 20A or Rule 20B apply.

How can Harris help?

We begin our undergrounding projects with an initial meeting and can continue through inspection and pole removal. Harris can provide joint trench design, assessment engineering, streetlight design, inspection and construction management. As the process for utility funded undergrounding takes many years, cities and counties with a plan in place have the most success.

WHAT GOES INTO AN ASSESSMENT DISTRICT?

Assessment Formula Components



Assessment Methodology

Benefit units are assigned to each category of special benefit based upon the requirements of Proposition 218, the specific circumstances within the proposed boundaries of the assessment district, and desires of property owners within the boundaries of the district.

Improved Streetscape + Neighborhood Aesthetics



- Removal of existing poles and overhead lines along paths of ingress/egress to properties
- Impacts of reduced trimming on existing trees



Increase in Service Dependability and Safety



- Reduction in service outages during severe weather
- Fewer momentary interruptions
- Reduction in likely damage during natural disaster
- Elimination of possible downed power lines



View Enhancement



- Removal of existing overhead facilities and poles that impact views from properties
- Topography of property relative to surrounding parcels and scenic vistas
- Impacts on property values and desirability



Special Benefit Units Assigned

Costs are distributed based upon the Special Benefits Units assigned to each parcel.

Sample Neighborhood

This graphic shows how Special Benefit Units may be determined. Points for safety and reliability may be applied to all equally, while improved streetscape may depend on where the house is.



Improved Streetscape = 2 units
 Increase in Service = 2 units
 View Enhancement = 2 units
SPECIAL BENEFIT UNITS = 6

Improved Streetscape = 1 unit
 Increase in Service = 2 units
 View Enhancement = 1 unit
SPECIAL BENEFIT UNITS = 4

Improved Streetscape = 1 unit
 Increase in Service = 2 units
 View Enhancement = 0.5 unit
SPECIAL BENEFIT UNITS = 3.5



Rocco Colicchia
408.615.2790
rocco.colicchia@WeAreHarris.com



Dennis Klingelhofer
949.655.3900 x2326
dennis.klingelhofer@WeAreHarris.com



Harris & Associates

WeAreHarris.com