

## **UNDERGROUNDING PROJECT SELECTION POLICY**

### **Goal**

It is the goal of the City Council to underground overhead utility lines as feasible.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidance on the selection, recommendation, and approval of future undergrounding projects in the City of Hidden Hills.

### **Identification of Potential Projects**

The City will use the following criteria when considering a recommendation of an undergrounding project:

#### *Readiness*

The readiness of a project will be reviewed and take into consideration how many residences on the proposed section are currently undergrounded. Those homes that are not undergrounded will be required to underground all onsite overhead services (wires and private service poles) before the commencement of a project. It is the policy of the City of Hidden Hills that public funds cannot be used to provide private underground service to a distribution or transmission pole. Individual homeowners will bear that responsibility.

#### *Cost*

The City will use an estimated cost of \$125,000 per pole to be removed when evaluating a project. Availability of funding will be reviewed.

#### *Safety and Aesthetics*

The City will consider the safety and aesthetic impact of a proposed undergrounding project. This will include number of poles to be removed, proximity of poles to trees, visual impact, number of lines crossing the street, removal of additional equipment (transformers, switch equipment, etc).

#### *Impacts*

The City will consider the location and impact of new cabinets both above ground and underground. Preference will be given to cabinets that could be located on private property rather than on parkways and/or equestrian trails. Both the HOA Equestrian Services Committee and HOA Board of Directors will be consulted on location of cabinets.

### *Poles on Private Property*

The City will consider removal of distribution or transmission poles on private property if the homeowner is already undergrounded to that pole. Private service poles that serve residents via overhead service will not be considered for removal by the City.

### **Project Approval Procedure**

Undergrounding Projects will go through a three-step approval process.

*Step 1* - The City will take into consideration all of the factors identified above prior to a recommendation to the City Council. The full City Council will provide, by majority vote, whether to begin the planning process with Southern California Edison. If approved, the City will pay the \$5,000 deposit to initiate the project.

*Step 2* - Once the project is planned and the design is complete, staff will bring the project back to the City Council for approval to proceed with issuing an RFP for construction bids and/or incurrence of any additional fees.

*Step 3* - Upon receipt of bids, the City Council will select the lowest qualified bidder and consider an agreement for authorization and funding. Upon approval by the City Council the project will commence.