

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
County of Placer

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DATE: August 4, 2015
FROM: KEN GREHM
SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE DAY OF AUGUST 11, 2015 AS
NATIONAL SAFE-DIGGING DAY

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION

Approve a Proclamation declaring the day of August 11, 2015, as National Safe-Digging Day.

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY

The 811 "Call Before You Dig" program is a vital public education and awareness program that will help keep Californians safe, and education is the key to promoting safe digging practices. All excavators, homeowners, and professional contractors can save time and money while making California's communities a safer place to live and work by dialing 811 in advance of all digging projects. By calling 811, Utility providers will locate their lines in the field for easy identification. Field identification assists contractors & excavators to protect and avoid utility lines. Many utility lines are often buried only a few inches underground, making them easy to strike and cause damage and harm, even during shallow excavation projects.

More than 170,000 underground utility lines are struck each year in the United States and approximately 33 percent of all digging damages in the United States result from not calling 811 before digging. Undesired consequences, such as service interruption, outages, damage to public and private infrastructure and property, damage to the environment, personal injury, and death, are at risk by failing to call 811 before digging.

As California's economy continues to recover from the recession and the state's economic recovery stimulates new construction, new construction requires supporting infrastructure, and California's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to call before digging. The free notification service provided by Underground Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada has dramatically reduced the number of accidents causing property damage, personal injury, and interruption of vital services.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Approval of the Proclamation is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Attachment 1 – Proclamation

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

Approve a Proclamation declaring
August 11, 2015, As National
Safe-Digging Day

The following PROCLAMATION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Placer at a regular meeting held, _____ by the following vote on roll
call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

**Chair,
Board of Supervisors**

**Attest:
Clerk of said Board**

WHEREAS, the 811 "Call Before You Dig" program is a vital public education and awareness program that will help keep Californians safe, and education is the key to promoting safe digging practices; and

WHEREAS, excavators, homeowners, and professional contractors can save time and money while making California's communities a safer place to live and work by dialing 811 in advance of all digging projects; and

WHEREAS, utility lines are often buried only a few inches underground, making them easy to strike and cause damage and harm even during shallow excavation projects; and

WHEREAS, more than 170,000 underground utility lines are struck each year in the United States and approximately 33 percent of all digging damages in the United States result from not calling 811 before digging; and

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WHEREAS, undesired consequences, such as service interruption, outages, damage to public and private infrastructure and property, damage to the environment, personal injury, and death, are risked by failing to call 811 before digging or safely marking utility lines; and

WHEREAS, as California's economy continues to recover from the recession and the state's economic recovery stimulates new construction, new construction requires supporting infrastructure, and California's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to call before digging; and

WHEREAS, the free notification service provided by Underground Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada has dramatically reduced the number of accidents causing property damage, personal injury, and interruption of vital services;

WHEREAS, California public agencies should enforce California Government Code 4216 regarding safe excavation practices, permitting and civil penalties;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Placer County proclaims August 11, 2015 as California Safe Digging Day and encourages all excavators, homeowners, and professional contractors to call 811 in advance of all digging projects.

