

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
County of Placer

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: JUNE 13, 2006

FROM: ^{JGD}
KEN GREHM / BOB COSTA

SUBJECT: **SQUAW VALLEY UTILITY UNDERGROUND CONVERSION DISTRICTS 2 AND 2A --
ELECTRICAL PANEL CONVERSIONS**

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing and approve the attached Resolution revising procedures for conversion of electrical panels within the Squaw Valley Utility Underground Conversion District.

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY

The Squaw Valley Underground Conversion Districts 2 and 2A were established by your Board in 1992 and 1993, respectively. These districts are two of a dozen such districts in Placer County created for the purpose of replacing unsightly overhead utility wires with underground facilities, thus improving scenic conditions. The serving utility companies do all design and construction of these utility conversion projects, with the exception of some service lateral work and meter modifications on the customer's property. Individual property owners are required to accommodate service from the newly relocated facilities, at their expense.

On May 7, 2002, your Board, by Resolution 2002-108, established revised procedures for use of CPUC Rule 20 funding to reimburse property owners' for a portion of electric panel conversion costs within the Squaw Valley Underground Conversion District 2A. A similar revision, affecting District 2, was approved by your Board on October 21, 2003, by Resolution 2003-263. The procedures adopted in 2002 and 2003 require the Department of Public Works (DPW) to hire an Electrical Contractor to perform panel conversions on each parcel, rather than each parcel owner having the work performed by a contractor that they would hire. This procedural change was made based on DPW's understanding of a reimbursement requirement of Sierra Pacific Power Company, the utility company responsible for administration of the Rule 20 funds for projects in the Tahoe area.

Those revised procedures are proving difficult to implement, and Sierra Pacific Power Company has indicated that the procedures that were in place prior to the 2002 modification are acceptable for the reimbursement of Rule 20 funds. According to their staff, Placer County is the only jurisdiction that they work with on these projects that implemented revisions; others continue to use the original procedures. DPW is requesting that your Board approve a revision to our procedures to change them back to those previously in effect, and which are consistent with other jurisdictions. If this proves to be a successful and efficient procedure during project construction this year, DPW will return to your Board with a similar request to modify all of the other Tahoe area underground conversion district procedures.

The attached Resolution restates provisions to cover most of the expected cost of individual property conversions with the allocations from the Rule 20 funds. Reimbursement amounts of \$500 per residence, and \$1500 per commercial service and eligibility requirements, as established in Resolutions 2002-108 and 2003-263, would not be affected by approval of this request.

ENVIRONMENTAL

This project is exempt from California Environmental Quality Control Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines 15302(d), Replacement or Reconstruction.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed action is expected to reduce staff time by a minor amount producing a positive fiscal benefit.

Attachments: Resolution

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

In the matter of: **A RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING REVISING PROCEDURES FOR
ELECTRICAL PANEL CONVERSIONS IN THE
SQUAW VALLEY UTILITY UNDERGROUND
CONVERSION DISTRICTS 2 AND 2A**

Resol. No:.....

Ord. No:.....

First Reading:.....

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

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Attest:
Clerk of said Board

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer has established the Squaw Valley Utility Underground Conversion District 2 and 2A; and

WHEREAS, the funding of the conversion of underground utilities within these districts is provided by the serving utility companies under CA PUC Rule 20A and other tariffs; and

WHEREAS, the conversion of underground utilities within said district may necessitate the upgrade or modification of electric service panels by individual property owners.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, that funds allocated to these projects by the serving public electric utility be utilized to perform the following work on underground customer service connections required to complete the underground conversion project:

- A. The installation of no more than 100 lineal feet of each customer's underground electrical lateral connection required by the project. This work is to be completed by the serving utility company as part of the project.
- B. The conversion of electric service panels to accept underground service, up to \$500 per residential service entrance and up to \$1,500 per commercial, industrial, or multi-family service entrance, excluding permit fees. This work is to be completed by the customer utilizing a properly licensed electrical contractor, and said work must be completed within the timeframe specified by the County. Reimbursement to the customer is subject to acceptance of the work by serving utility and County approval of an acceptable invoice from the electrical contractor that shows payment in full for the work performed. Any costs in excess of the stipulated amounts shall be the sole responsibility of the property owner(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the electrical utility which undertakes underground installation of its facilities shall use the underground conversion allocation computed pursuant to decisions of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California for the purpose of providing to each premise in each Underground Utility Conversion District individual electric service trenching and conductor, as well as backfill, paving and electrical conduit, if required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County intends to utilize Rule 20A funding for the meter panel conversion option provision based on the December 7, 1999 Advice Letter, CPUC Advice 1930-E. Actual dollar amount per service to be funded by Rule 20A shall not exceed \$1,500. The underground conversion allocation participation on private property is limited to those properties upon which a residence, commercial establishment or other structure that currently receives electrical power exists as of the adoption of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the various utility companies are authorized to leave in place any poles, guy lines, service lines or appurtenances that are on or near the district boundaries. Said boundaries are intended to terminate at or near poles that are acceptable to said utility companies to be used as "riser poles".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by said Board that the Director of Public Works shall notify all property owners in the Squaw Valley Utility Underground Conversion Districts 2 and 2A that the financial assistance contained in A and B above is available to offset the cost of converting individual services to accept underground supply of electricity.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by said Board that the Director of Public Works is authorized to request, receive, and disburse Rule 20A funds provided by the serving utility company in accordance with this Resolution.

