



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 3, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Phillip L. Harrington, Director, Department of Public Works
 Subject: Submission of an Application for Service to Pacific Gas and Electric for Bay View Place Applicant-Financed Utility Underground District

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an Application for Service to Pacific Gas and Electric for project review, design work, and cost development in connection with the establishment of the Bay View Place Applicant-Financed Utility Underground District; and accept a \$10,000 payment from the property owners on the 1300 block of Bay View Place to pay for the application fee for work Pacific Gas and Electric performs and costs they incur for this Application for Service.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are no fiscal impacts with submitting the Application for Service (application) to Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) since \$10,000 funding will be provided by property owners supportive of the proposed Bay View Place Applicant-Financed Utility Underground District (AFUUD).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Existing overhead utility infrastructure in place on the 1300 block of Bay View Place have the potential to be accidentally damaged or impacted by manmade, earthquake or weather events that can cut off power and utility supply to the entire neighborhood of buildings. To enhance neighborhood aesthetics, and to improve safety and reliability, the property owners on the 1300 block of Bay View Place are contemplating levying themselves to finance the placement of utility wires underground.

BACKGROUND

In 2014 and 2015, property owners on the 1300 block of Bay View Place held meetings that resulted in a majority support from the property owners for the formation of the AFUUD that is necessary to achieve the subsequent undergrounding of the existing overhead utilities. This multi-step, multi-year process includes participation from PG&E, AT&T, and Comcast since all three utility agencies have overhead utility infrastructure within the parameters of the proposed AFUUD. Formal utility agency participation is initiated when the City submits an application to PG&E, who will act as the lead agency for all three utility agencies. Services rendered from the application

includes project review, design work, and cost development in connection with the utility undergrounding for all three utilities. The cost for these services are covered by an application fee to PG&E in the amount of \$10,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Undergrounding of overhead utilities make utility lines less susceptible to outages, improves accessibility on City sidewalks for the elderly and people with disabilities, and is considered to be more aesthetically pleasing.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

There are many benefits to undergrounding utilities including enhancing neighborhood aesthetics, and improving the safety, reliability, and performance of utility infrastructure. Submitting the application to PG&E is a necessary and important component in the multi-step process for the formation of the AFUUD and subsequent undergrounding of the existing overhead utilities.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

City Council may choose not to submit the application to PG&E. Not submitting the application will essentially discontinue the process for undergrounding the utilities on the 1300 block of Bay View Place. Should this alternative action occur, neither the City nor the property owners will enjoy the benefits that come from undergrounding the overhead utilities.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR SERVICE TO PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC FOR BAY VIEW PLACE APPLICANT-FINANCED UTILITY UNDERGROUND DISTRICT

WHEREAS, property owners on the 1300 block of Bay View Place held meetings that resulted in a majority support for the formation of an Applicant-Financed Utility Underground District (AFUUD) on the 1300 block of Bay View Place; and

WHEREAS, there is need to obtain project review, design work and cost development from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), AT&T and Comcast since all three utility agencies have overhead utility infrastructure within the parameters of the proposed AFUUD; and

WHEREAS, formal utility agency participation is initiated when the City submits an Application for Service (application) to PG&E, who will act as the lead agency for all three utility agencies; and

WHEREAS, the application fee for services rendered by PG&E is \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, the property owners on the 1300 block of Bay View Place will pay the application fee to the City prior to submittal of the application.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to accept \$10,000 from the owners of property owners located on the 1300 block of Bay View Place and submit an Application for Service to Pacific Gas and Electric to obtain project review, design work and cost development in connection with the establishment of the Bay View Place AFUUD.

