CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

How will my utilities be undergrounded during construction?

There are four main phases of construction:

- Trenching involves the Program contractor digging in the streets and in each individual property to place conduits that will eventually house the new underground lines. Panel conversion requires the program contractor to prepare each electric meter panel to accept the new underground service.
- Cabling and placement of equipment involves running utility lines through the newly placed underground conduits.
 Once cabling is complete, the new underground system will be energized for use.
- Cutover involves taking residents off the old overhead system and converting them to the new underground system.
- Removal involves taking down the overhead lines and utility poles. This portion of work happens at the end of construction.

"I have received notification of a Public Hearing to form a Utility Underground District in my area. Do I need to attend?"

You have the right to attend and to express your views regarding the project; however, you are not required to attend.

Example of Utility Undergrounding

Before







Hours

Monday – Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Closed 12-1

Phone Numbers

Transportation Engineering Division: (925)-313-2370

Website

www.cccpublicworks.org





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Utility Undergrounding Program



Contra Costa County Public Works Department

255 Glacier Dr. Martinez, CA (925) 313-2000

Julia R. Bueren, Director

Deputy Directors

- Brian M. Balbas
- Stephen Kowalewski
- Stephen Silveira

Frequently Asked Questions

"What is Utility Undergrounding?"

Utility undergrounding is the conversion of existing overhead electric and communication facilities to an underground location along major transportation corridors. The purpose is to beautify the streets and enhance community aesthetics.

"What are the benefits?"

- Improve overall aesthetics
- Installation of new equipment to replace existing equipment
- Reduce costs of tree trimming and utility pole replacement
- Reduce system exposure to weather conditions
- May improve property values

"How are the projects funded?"

In 1967, the California Public Utilities Commission required new electric service connections to be placed underground and funded a program through utility tariffs to provide options for undergrounding existing overhead distribution lines.

The California Public Utilities Commission provides a program called Rule-20A that governs the funding of electric supply utility undergrounding for community core areas such as along arterials or in downtown areas. Telephone and cable utilities pay through their own undergrounding budget.

Frequently Asked Questions

Under the County-administered Rule 20A program, the County can call on utility undergrounding credits and partner with the affected utilities to implement an undergrounding project

The County Public Works Department maintains a priority list of potential Rule 20A projects in unincorporated Contra Costa County. For more information on the priority list, please call Transportation Engineering Staff at (925)-313-2000, or visit the County Public Works Department website:

www.cccpublicworks.org

"What are the costs to underground utility service to my property?"



Pacific Gas and Electric Company®

PG&E, Comcast, AT&T and the County will be working to underground your utilities. There will be <u>no cost</u> to install the underground services and convert the electrical panel when you sign the Permission to Enter form.



Frequently Asked Questions

"How will construction affect access to my property?"

Construction crews are responsible for maintaining access to your street and property during construction. You can ask the trenching crews to pull a trench plate over the open trench in order to access your property.

"Will my utility services be disrupted during construction?"

Every effort will be made to minimize planned service outages. The contractor or utility company is required to notify you prior to any service outages during the conversion process which is 4 hours on average.

"Am I responsible for work on my private property?"

If a property owner signs the Permission to Enter form, the Program will perform all activities to underground the utilities. A safety check of the electrical system for each home or business will be performed by a County Building Inspector. If a safety issue is identified at the home or business, the property owner will be responsible to correct the deficiency prior to the panel conversion.

"I received a notice that my utilities will be underground. How can I get more information?"

You can <u>call</u> us at (925) 313-2370 or <u>e</u> <u>-mail</u> us at admin@pw.cccounty.us anytime with questions or concerns.