



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

# ORD-30

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

333 West Ocean Boulevard • Long Beach, CA 90802

August 15, 2006

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

### RECOMMENDATION:

Declare ordinance amending Long Beach Municipal Code Sections 15.48.010 and 15.48.090 of the Municipal Code, relating to underground utility districts, read for the first time and laid over to the next regular meeting of the City Council for final reading. (Citywide)

### DISCUSSION

Chapter 15.48 of the Long Beach Municipal Code identifies the policies and procedures for the conversion of utilities from overhead to underground. The Code specifies that the City Council may establish an Underground Utility District (UUD) and require the public utility companies to underground their facilities pursuant to the rules and regulations of the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC). Funds for this purpose are allocated annually by the CPUC in proportion to the number of overhead meters in the City and are known as Rule 20A funds.

Section 15.48.090 of the Municipal Code currently specifies that persons owning or occupying property within a designated UUD are financially responsible for converting their utility service connection from overhead to underground. This code section was in compliance with the guidelines put forth on the use of Rule 20A funds by the CPUC. In 1999, the California Public Utility Commission ruled that Rule 20A funds may be used for the conversion of customers' service connections, responding to the fact that, on many underground conversion projects across the state, overhead poles remained in place long after the main lines were placed underground due to the inability or the unwillingness of property owners to fund and complete the service connections to their property. Until all the aerial service connections are converted to underground, the utility providers are required to maintain the aerial system.

The Department of Public Works recommends that the City take advantage of this funding source for service conversions, because finalizing this aspect of a UUD project has resulted in serious delays with past projects within the city. Typical conversion costs range from \$500 for simple residential panels to \$2,500 for commercial panels. It is estimated

**ADMINISTRATION,  
PLANNING & FACILITIES**  
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Ph. (562) 570-6383  
Fax (562) 570-6012

**AIRPORT**  
4100 Donald Douglas Dr.  
Long Beach, CA 90808  
Ph. (562) 570-2600  
Fax (562) 570-2601

**ENGINEERING & STREET  
MAINTENANCE**  
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Ph. (562) 570-6634  
Fax (562) 570-6012

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES**  
2929 E. Willow Street  
Long Beach, CA 90806  
Ph. (562) 570-2850  
Fax (562) 570-2861

**FLEET SERVICES**  
2600 Temple Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90806  
Ph. (562) 570-5400  
Fax (562) 570-5414

**TRAFFIC &  
TRANSPORTATION**  
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Ph. (562) 570-6331  
Fax (562) 570-7161

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

August 15, 2006

Page 2

that on a typical undergrounding project the total cost of these customer service conversions would be no more than five percent of the total project cost and project completion times would be shortened by several years.

The attached ordinance provides that Rule 20A funds may be utilized for the conversion of customer service connections. This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Lisa Peskay Malmsten on April 14, 2006, and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on August 4, 2006.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

This matter is not time critical.

FISCAL IMPACT

Since all funding for Rule 20A Utility Undergrounding projects comes from the public utilities, there is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



CHRISTINE F. ANDERSEN  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

GMM:SC:km  
P:\CL\RW UUD Customer Conversion Ordinance CL.doc

Attachment

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER