



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 18-0457, **Version:** 1

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HEARING - Community Development Services, Department of Transportation, recommending the Board consider the following regarding the formation of the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Underground Utility District:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of Resolution **081-2018** to form the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Underground Utility District;
- 2) Direct the Director of Transportation, or designee, to sign all Pacific Gas & Electric Company application documents necessary to initiate work under the Rule 20A Program upon the identification of a specific overhead to underground conversion project within the Underground Utility District; and
- 3) Direct the Director of Transportation, or designee, to sign all related notices to Pacific Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T California upon identification of a specific overhead to underground conversion project within the Underground Utility District. (Est. Time: 30 Min.)

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Community Development Services, Department of Transportation (Transportation), recommending the Board conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution to form the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Underground Utility District (UUD).

Overhead utility poles and guy wires can be considered roadside hazards; a UUD can help eliminate these risks. Due to the considerable community input and the benefit to this historic area, Transportation staff recommend the Board consider this UUD to further improve the aesthetics and safety of the Diamond Springs and El Dorado communities by eliminating the existing heavy concentration of utility poles and overhead lines along primary transportation routes. In accordance with Section 12.36.020 of the El Dorado County Ordinance, a UUD can be established by public hearing of the Board.

### **DISCUSSION / BACKGROUND**

On January 9, 2018 (Item 43), the Board directed Transportation staff to begin preliminary work and public outreach necessary to establish this UUD. Currently, a number of overhead utility lines exist adjacent to Pleasant Valley Road / SR49 and Missouri Flat Road within the UUD area. These utility owners include PG&E, AT&T and Comcast. These utility lines will be required to relocate underground with any future County, Caltrans, or private improvement project requiring utility relocations.

Funding for the Design and Construction Phases of UUD facilities are available from the Rule 20A Tariff Program (Rule 20A), which is managed by PG&E. This program was established in 1967 by the California Public Utilities Commission, so that privately-owned utility companies would set aside a small portion of billings into a fund available to be used for UUD projects. As these funds accrue, the various cities and counties within PG&E's service area are allocated a proportional amount of funds. A similar Rule 32A.1 Tariff Program (Rule 32A.1) exists for AT&T facilities. Transportation staff has received confirmation from PG&E that the UUD is eligible to utilize Rule 20A program funds. Transportation staff has also communicated with AT&T representatives regarding the proposed UUD and their associated financial responsibilities with the Rule 32A.1 program.

Over the past four months, Transportation staff has progressed forward with activities necessary for formation of the UUD, including public outreach and coordination with the utility companies. Additionally, all property owners affected by the proposed UUD were contacted via mail inviting them to attend this Hearing.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

Cancel the formation of the UUD.

#### **OTHER DEPARTMENT / AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution.

#### **CAO RECOMMENDATION / COMMENTS**

It is recommended that the Board approve this item.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no Net County Cost associated with the item. Financial obligation will occur when a Transportation project is identified within the UUD that requires utility relocations.

#### **CLERK OF THE BOARD FOLLOW UP ACTIONS**

- 1) Clerk of the Board will obtain the Chair's signature on the adopted Resolution.
- 2) Clerk of the Board will forward a copy of the executed Resolution to CDS Transportation, Fairlane Engineering, attention Matt Smeltzer.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN COMPONENT**

Infrastructure

#### **CONTACT**

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