

**CITY OF
LA MESA**

JEWEL of the HILLS

STAFF REPORT

REPORT to the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL
From the CITY MANAGER

DATE: August 14, 2007

SUBJECT: Resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2002-058 and approving a revised priority list of streets for future Underground Utility Districts

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: Public Works

SUMMARY:

Issues:

Is the attached revised priority list of streets for Underground Utility Districts consistent with the City Council's current policies and direction?

Recommendation:

Adopt the attached resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2002-058, and approve the revised priority list of streets for future Underground Utility Districts.

Fiscal Impact:

City funds are not required for the design or construction of underground utilities. Funds to complete underground projects come from Rule 20A funds collected by SDGE. La Mesa's current Rule 20A fund balance for underground districts is approximately \$5.2 million.

However, upon completion of construction of an undergrounding district, street lights that are currently on wooden poles, or new street lights that are needed to comply with current City lighting standards are installed. Installation of these lights are paid for by the City, from TransNet funds that are programmed bi-annually as part of the City's budget.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Utility Commission, under Rule 20A, requires that electric utility companies set aside a percentage of customer billing revenue to fund the placement of overhead utilities underground along streets within the community that meet SDG&E's criteria.

The criteria below were used in selecting streets for the proposed list of streets for undergrounding. The criteria have been updated since the 2002 resolution, adding priority area and walkability.

La Mesa's criteria for establishing underground districts:

- a. Existing land use
- b. City gateway or priority area/neighborhood revitalization
- c. Circulation element/street classification/walkability
- d. Upcoming infrastructure improvements
- e. Improve aesthetics
- f. SDG&E criteria

San Diego Gas & Electric's criteria for undergrounding of overhead utilities are:

- a. Areas with unusually heavy concentration of overhead electric facilities along a main thoroughfare.
- b. Areas where street improvements are extensively used by the general public, carrying a heavy volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- c. Areas where street improvements adjoin or pass through a civic area of public recreation or an unusual scenic interest to the general public.
- d. Minimum length for a Underground Utility District is 600 feet.

DISCUSSION:

The previous resolution defining the priority street list to Underground Utility Districts (Resolution No. 2002-058) was adopted in 2002 and needs to be updated to coincide with current construction activity and Council direction. The following is the list of streets from the 2002 Resolution:

1. La Mesa Boulevard from University Avenue to El Cajon Boulevard
2. Jackson Drive from Interstate 8 to Lemon Avenue
3. Parkway Drive from Marengo Avenue to Lambda Lane
4. Spring Street from Palm Avenue to SR94/125 Interchange
5. 70th Street from University Avenue to Colony Road/City limits
6. Massachusetts Avenue from University Avenue to Waite Drive
7. Waite Drive from Murray Hill Road to 69th Street/City limits
8. Lake Murray Boulevard from Aztec Drive to Dallas Street/City limits

The City has established districts for half of the streets. Recent projects completed include La Mesa Boulevard and Jackson Drive. Other districts established and being prepared for construction are Parkway Drive and Spring Street.

Following the recent establishment of Underground Utility District No. 25 (Spring Street), the City Council directed staff to update the list of streets proposed for future utility undergrounding. With the upcoming completion of the majority of La Mesa's gateway streets and streets in the commercial areas, the Council had a desire to begin undergrounding some residential streets. Additionally, at the March City Council retreat the Council expressed interest in beginning the undergrounding of utilities in La Mesa's West End as part of the City's infrastructure investment effort in the West End.

With the above in mind, staff has developed the following proposed updated street list for future undergrounding as follows:

1. Orien Avenue from 7447 Orien Avenue to 7485 Orien Avenue
2. Normal Avenue from Lowell Street to La Mesa Boulevard
3. Lowell Street from University Avenue to Orien Avenue
4. Parks Avenue from University Avenue to Normal Avenue
5. Lemon Avenue from Grant Street to Bancroft Drive
6. Dallas Street from Lake Murray Boulevard to Fletcher Parkway Drive
7. 70th Street from University Avenue to Colony Road/City limits
8. Massachusetts Avenue from University Avenue to Waite Drive
9. Waite Drive from Murray Hill Road to 69th Street/City limits
10. Lake Murray Boulevard from Aztec Drive to Dallas Street/City limits

Orien Avenue is recommended to be the City's top priority at this time because of anticipated construction at Helix High School. Representatives from the school have met with staff recently to discuss proposed improvements to the student parking lot. The City has asked Helix to construct the missing sidewalk link along Orien Avenue and Lowell Street as part of the project. In order to more easily construct a proper sidewalk, existing overhead utilities need to be placed underground.

Normal Avenue, Lowell Street and Parks Avenue are all collector streets in the West End. Street resurfacing and other infrastructure projects have begun and are being scheduled along these streets and the undergrounding of the utilities would be a significant added benefit to the proposed improvements.

Lemon Avenue is an important collector street in the eastern side of La Mesa and would be a good street to start utility undergrounding in this part of the City.

Dallas Street is similarly an important collector street in the northeastern part of La Mesa. Undergrounding utilities along this street would provide a real benefit to that part of the City.

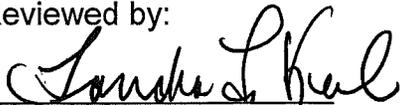
The remainder of the streets included in the updated list of streets have been carried forward from the 2002 prioritized list.

CONCLUSION:

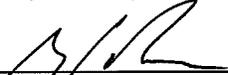
Based on direction from the City Council, staff has prepared an updated list of streets proposed for future utility undergrounding. Staff has proposed several important collector streets in different areas of the City in an attempt to spread the infrastructure investment around La Mesa. The list of streets has been prioritized in an attempt coordinate utility underground work with anticipated infrastructure projects.

Staff recommends adopting the attached resolution, rescinding Resolution No. 2002-058, and approving the revised priority list of streets for future Underground Utility Districts.

Reviewed by:


Sandra L. Kerl
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:


Gregory P. Humora
Director of Public Works/City Engineer


Matthew C. Souttere
Engineering Project Manager

Attachments: A - Resolution 2002-058
B - Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-058

RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 16839 AND APPROVING
A PRIORITY LIST OF STREETS FOR FUTURE UNDERGROUND UTILITY
DISTRICTS

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Mesa California, that Resolution No. 16839 adopted on May 26, 1992 is hereby rescinded and the following prioritized list of streets for future Underground Utility Districts is approved.

1. La Mesa Boulevard from University Avenue to Lee Avenue/El Cajon Boulevard
2. Jackson Drive from Interstate 8 to Lemon Avenue
3. Parkway Drive from Marengo Avenue to Lambda Lane/Amarillo Avenue
4. Spring Street from Palm Avenue to SR94/125 Interchange
5. 70th Street from University Avenue to Colony Road/City limits
6. Massachusetts Avenue from University Avenue to Waite Drive
7. Waite Drive from Murray Hill Road to 69th Street/City limits
8. Lake Murray Boulevard From Aztec Drive to Dallas Street/City limits

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will proceed with the projects in the general priority listed above based on available financial resources, acquisition of easements and construction efficiency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, held the 28th day of May 2002, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Councilmembers Allan, Jantz, Knepper, and Sterling and Mayor Madrid

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, MARY J. KENNEDY, City Clerk of the City of La Mesa, California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 2002-058, duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City on the date and by the vote therein recited.


MARY J. KENNEDY, CMC, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

COPY

RESOLUTION NO: 2007-094

RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2002-058 AND APPROVING A
NEW PRIORITY LIST OF STREETS FOR FUTURE UNDERGROUND UTILITY
DISTRICTS

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Mesa California, that the Resolution No. 2002-058 adopted on May 28th, 2002 is hereby rescinded and the following prioritized list of streets for future Underground Utility Districts is approved.

1. Orien Avenue from 7447 Orien Avenue to 7485 Orien Avenue
2. Normal Avenue from Lowell Street to La Mesa Boulevard
3. Lowell Street from University Avenue to Orien Avenue
4. Parks Avenue from University Avenue to Normal Avenue
5. Lemon Avenue from Grant Street to Bancroft Drive
6. Dallas Street from Lake Murray Boulevard to Fletcher Parkway Drive
7. 70th Street from University Avenue to Colony Road/City limits
8. Massachusetts Avenue from University Avenue to Waite Drive
9. Waite Drive from Murray Hill Road to 69th Street/City limits
10. Lake Murray Boulevard from Aztec Drive to Dallas Street/City limits

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will proceed with the projects in the general priority listed above based on availability of financial resources, acquisition of easements and construction efficiency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular meeting of the City of La Mesa, California, held the 14th day of August 2007, by the following to wit:

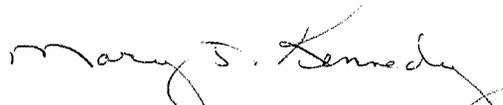
AYES: Councilmembers Allan, Arapostathis, Ewin, Sterling and Mayor Madrid

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATE OF THE CITY CLERK

I, MARY J. KENNEDY, City Clerk of the City of La Mesa, California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 2007-094, duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City on the date and by the vote therein recited.


MARY J. KENNEDY, CMC City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)