February 25, 2020

Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, California, 94913

SUBJECT: Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution Establishing the Underground Utility District located along Nicasio Valley Road from south of town center to Lucas Valley Road

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: 1) Conduct Public Hearing, consider testimony received, close public hearing; 2) Adopt the attached Resolution creating an underground utility district.

SUMMARY: One of the programs administered by the Department of Public Works is the Rule 20A program for undergrounding of existing aerial utilities on public streets. This program is governed with a General Conditions Agreement (GCA) established by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), which among other things, requires PG&E to issue credits annually to each municipality based on their respective franchise agreement.

The past few years saw the terms of the GCA undergo several changes and many municipalities, including Marin County, put their Rule 20A programs on hold until consensus was reached on the new agreement. The CPUC announced in the third quarter of 2019 that the new GCA had been adopted by all stakeholders. The Department of Public Works now has approximately $4.4 million in Rule 20A credits available to begin work towards priority undergrounding projects.

On April 6, 1999 your Board adopted a policy regarding the selection of undergrounding projects, which the Department of Public Works has used to identify the referenced segment of Nicasio Valley Road from south of town center to Lucas Valley Road as a top candidate project for allocation of Rule 20A funds.

Before a Rule 20A project can proceed, the GCA requires that the local agency establish an underground utility district within which existing overhead electric distribution and telecommunication distribution and service facilities will be converted to underground. The Nicasio Valley Road district being considered today includes approximately two thousand linear feet of overhead utility lines and impacts the services laterals of four (4) different parcels. The estimated construction cost for this project is $3,000,000 and will be partially funded by the County’s existing Rule 20A work credits and partially by a 5-year borrow of Rule 20A credits as allowed by the CPUC and PG&E.
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Property owners of the four (4) impacted parcels included in this proposed undergrounding utility district were notified of today's public hearing and that adoption of the Resolution would be considered by the Board. The impacted parcels are identified on Exhibit "A" of the Resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT: There will be no increase in the General Fund net County costs as a result of this action. Construction costs are reimbursable by PG&E under the Rule 20A program. Staff will return to your Board in the future with details for bidding of construction plans and associated expenditures. There are no other impacts by this action.

REVIEWED BY:  
[ ] County Administrator [ X ] N/A  
[ ] Department of Finance [ X ] N/A  
[ X ] County Counsel [ ] N/A  
[ ] Human Resources [ X ] N/A

Respectfully submitted,  

Eric Miller  
Principal Civil Engineer

Attachments: Resolution including Exhibit "A"

C: Qiana Davis, DPW Accounting  
Sindy Mikkelson, Harris & Associates  
Dave Bernardi, Project Management Services