

UTILITIES ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Hermosa Beach shares a problem endemic to coastal communities, that of utility blight. As a community of predominately small lots and narrow streets on irregular terrain, the impact of "helter skelter" utility arrangements is magnified. As the South Coast Regional Commission has noted in its study of the area, a critical amenity resource is being seriously marred by a jungle of ill planned and ill placed poles and wires. Not only are such lines unattractive, they can also be a hazard with falling high powered lines or heavy poles in case of disasters such as earthquakes, high winds, or vehicle collisions.

In 1968 Hermosa Beach took its first steps toward rectifying this problem with the adoption of an undergrounding ordinance that provided enabling legislation for the City to establish undergrounding districts. In 1972 the City embarked on a successful undergrounding district in southern portions of town. The City has also removed overhead wiring on much of Monterey Boulevard. Another area the City has attempted to deal with undergrounding of utilities is in new subdivision requirements, including condominiums.

All of these actions serve to ameliorate parts of the problem, but what is needed is a comprehensive review of the utility situation and a program of coordinated policy to deal with the question for the next five to ten years. The Utility Element will attempt to do this.

AUTHORIZATION

Based on discussions by the City Council, City Manager, and Staff, a consensus developed as to the need for a Utility Element. In priority this element would follow the mandated elements and the Economic Element. The Utility Element was seen as a coordinated element with the Safety Element and with city building, undergrounding, zoning, and subdivision ordinances. It was perceived as an intermediate time range oriented element (present to ten years: as primary focus).

ASSUMPTIONS

1. The City of Hermosa Beach has the power to influence the quality and type of utilities within its jurisdiction.
2. Underground utilities are preferable to overhead systems because of safety, better use of land area, and aesthetics.
3. The City should seek to work with all utilities, property owners, and its own capital improvements to effect a coordinated on-going program to eventually effectuate total undergrounding for the City
4. Utility planning and regulation should be coordinated and inclusive of all utility services - electric power, television cable, telephone, gas, water, and sewer.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

1. All new subdivisions shall be totally underground and shall have a complete utility plan approved by the City before a map shall be approved. A similar requirement for a utility plan should be created for all new construction and remodeling over \$15,000.
2. The City shall develop and systematically follow a schedule of undergrounding of utility service, and with the aid of underground districts, which are to be created in concert with the schedule, the undergrounding of private service connections is to be accomplished within reasonable time periods.

Goals/Objectives and Policies (cont.)

3. All utilities which wish to locate new transmission or distribution facilities within the City shall have to have type and location approved by the City Engineer. In all cases the appropriate 100 Amp service box and a sweep shall be the minimum provided for future underground service.
4. All trenching for undergrounding shall be designed to accommodate television cable as well as power lines and telephone.
5. 3209 Funds and Lighting District Funds are to be used to underground all overhead utilities and underground lighting power lines for arterial and collector streets within Hermosa Beach within the next twenty years.
6. All new commercial, industrial, or residential construction and remodels of more than \$15,000 shall underground utilities to the nearest available power source.
7. Overhead wooden lighting poles shall be replaced with underground marbelite type poles.
8. The City Engineer will begin a systematic review of the sewer capacity for the City, and shall comment on all residential projects of ever three units as to that capacity.
9. The removal of wires and poles by the utilities and all non-energized wires.

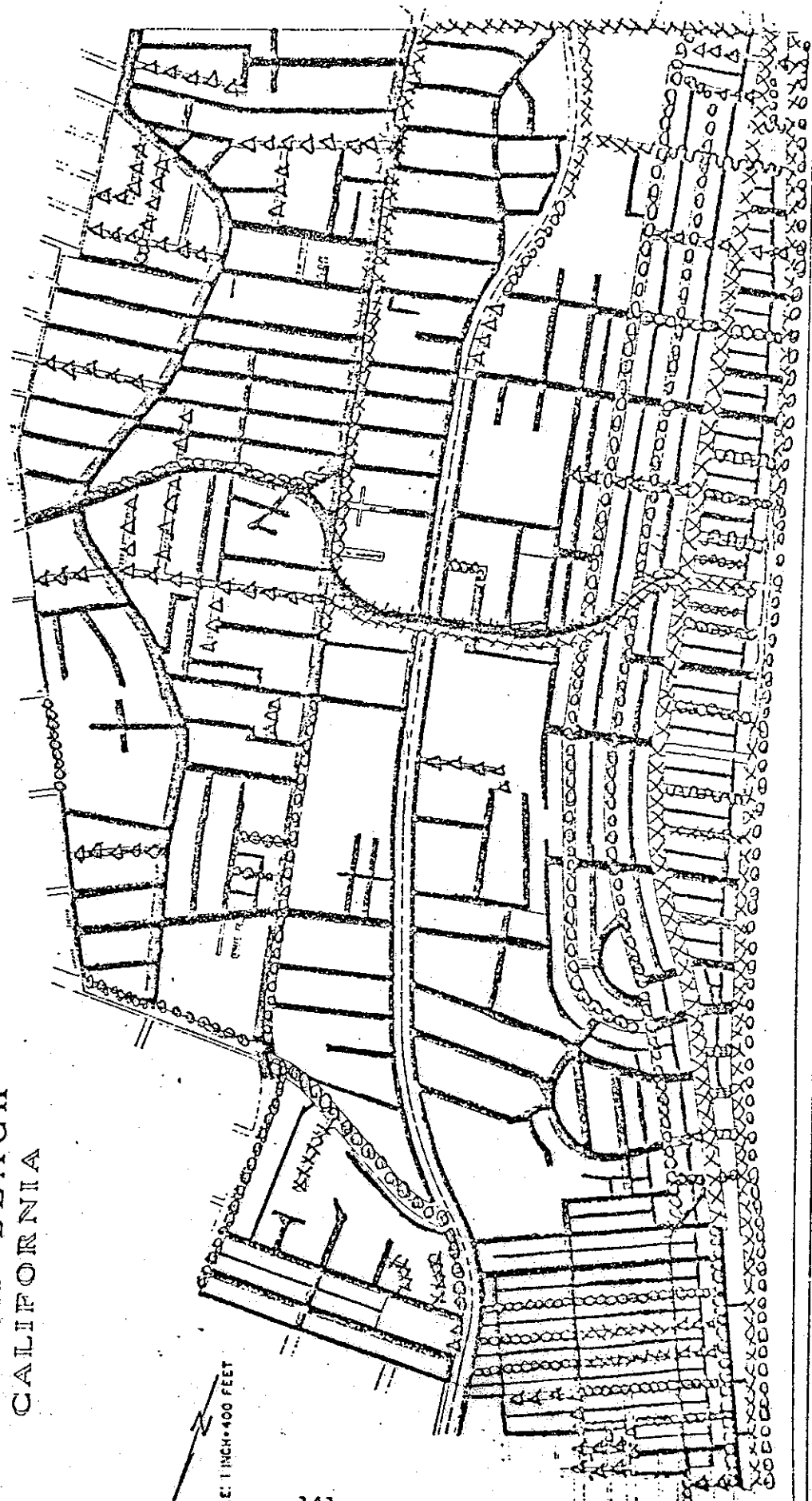
Final phase of installation (10-20 years)

Proposed second phase of installation (5-10 years)

Proposed wiring underground and installation - areas done or proposed for near future (1-5 years)

Clear Street - no wires

CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH CALIFORNIA



SCALE: 1 INCH = 400 FEET