

November 1, 2001

Honorable Mayor and Members of
the Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
November 13, 2001

**PROJECT NO. CIP 97-182 MYRTLE AVENUE UNDERGROUNDING AND
PROJECT NO. CIP 97-183 LOMA DRIVE UNDERGROUNDING –
STATUS REPORT**

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file this report.

Summary:

This report covers the progress made to date in the two utility undergrounding districts.

Staff has asked Edison for the plans and associated costs for either removing or replacing the guy pole at the corner of 25th Street and Silverstrand Avenue in the Myrtle District. With the exception of that pole, no other work needs to be done in the district.

In the Loma District, Adelphia and Verizon have made significant progress in their cut over operations so that their portions of the project would be completed by the end of November. To that end, Staff has overseen their work on a daily basis in order to help with any conversion problems that may occur.

Edison completed installation of the primary and secondary wires on September 10, 2001 and left the area. As has been stated in previous reports, Edison doesn't plan to return to the district until both Verizon and Adelphia have finished their work. This will delay the project by at least three months. Staff, therefore, expects the Loma District to be completed by mid-March 2002.

Work Completed:

The substructure installation of ducts for electricity, telephone and cable has been completed per the original design plans. The placement of vaults, pull boxes, hand-holes and laterals to residents, as indicated in the initially drawn plans, have also been completed. Pavement repairs, striping, and final clean up of the reconstructed areas within the districts have been completed as well. The City has accepted the work by Irish Construction Company for both projects.

All utilities in the Myrtle District have been undergrounded. All the utility poles within the Myrtle District have been removed.

The installation of primary and secondary Edison wires on the public right-of-way within the Loma District has been completed.

With the exception of properties whose cable services have already been undergrounded but are still fed from the risers on nearby poles, Adelphia has finished placing drops throughout the Loma District. Verizon has completed laying down drops on the Sunset Drive portion of the district with the exception of locations having problems with their conduit locations and for the new buildings where underground phone services are fed from the close-by utility poles through the risers on those poles.

Work in Progress:

Staff is assisting Adelphia and Verizon in resolving any of their problems with the components installed by Irish Construction Company, and with the work done at each property within the Loma District. Both utility companies are installing additional utility boxes within the district for the buildings with already installed underground services at their properties but without any connection pathways to the district underground system. Those locations were not included in either company's design plans submitted to the Staff during the original construction phase of the project.

Adelphia has activated its underground system. However, they will not shut down the overhead system until each property within the district has been converted. Staff has requested that Edison provide plans and associated costs for removing the utility pole from the corner of 11th Street and Loma Drive in the Loma District. This is in addition, to providing the cost of either relocating or removing the guy pole at the corner of 25th Street and Silverstrand Avenue. Both poles are within the district but were going to remain per the original Edison design plans.

Based on the five bids submitted by five different electricians to finish the required work at 745 Loma Drive/744 Sunset and 1016 Loma Drive, the electrician submitting the lowest bid has been selected to complete those two properties undergrounding work. The cost of the work will be paid from CDBG funds set aside for eligible property owners.

Work Remaining:

Verizon and Adelphia need to complete their conversions in the Loma District. Staff has yet to receive Edison's plans for removal or relocation of the utility pole at the corner of Loma Drive and 11th Street and the guy pole located next to the School at the corner of 25th Street and Silverstrand Avenue.

Edison has to return to the Loma District to complete their conversion work and to remove all the poles within the area. Staff is in regular contact with the property owners and with their contractors to resolve the problems discovered by Adelphia and Verizon during the drop installations at each property. As the CDBG funds have been reinstated to provide financial assistance to the qualified homeowners in the district, the two pre-approved homeowners at 745 Loma Drive/744 Sunset Drive and 1016 Loma Drive will have their conversions completed through the utilization of these funds.

Conclusions:

Staff is using all resources in order to bring the Loma District to completion. Staff has kept communications open with the property owners in the district, keeping them informed of delays as well as daily difficulties faced as Adelphia and Verizon complete their portions of the project. Keeping these channels of communication open has significantly reduced the number of complaints by the property owners.

Respectfully submitted,

Concur:

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