

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Title: Attachment B - 4-6-22 Staff Report.docx

Meeting Date: April 6, 2022

Prepared by: Haislip Hayes, PE Public Works Director

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Town Council:

1. Conduct a public hearing regarding the attached ordinance to create Underground Utility District 2022-01
2. Waive the first reading and introduce by title only the attached Ordinance (Exhibit A)

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting on March 16, 2022, Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-15 (Exhibit B) declaring the Town Council's intention to establish Underground Utility District 2022-01. The Council meeting of April 6, 2022 was set as the date of the Public Hearing on the matter. Notices announcing the meeting with a description of the project and a copy of the Resolution were mailed to all property owners in the proposed district on March 25, 2022.

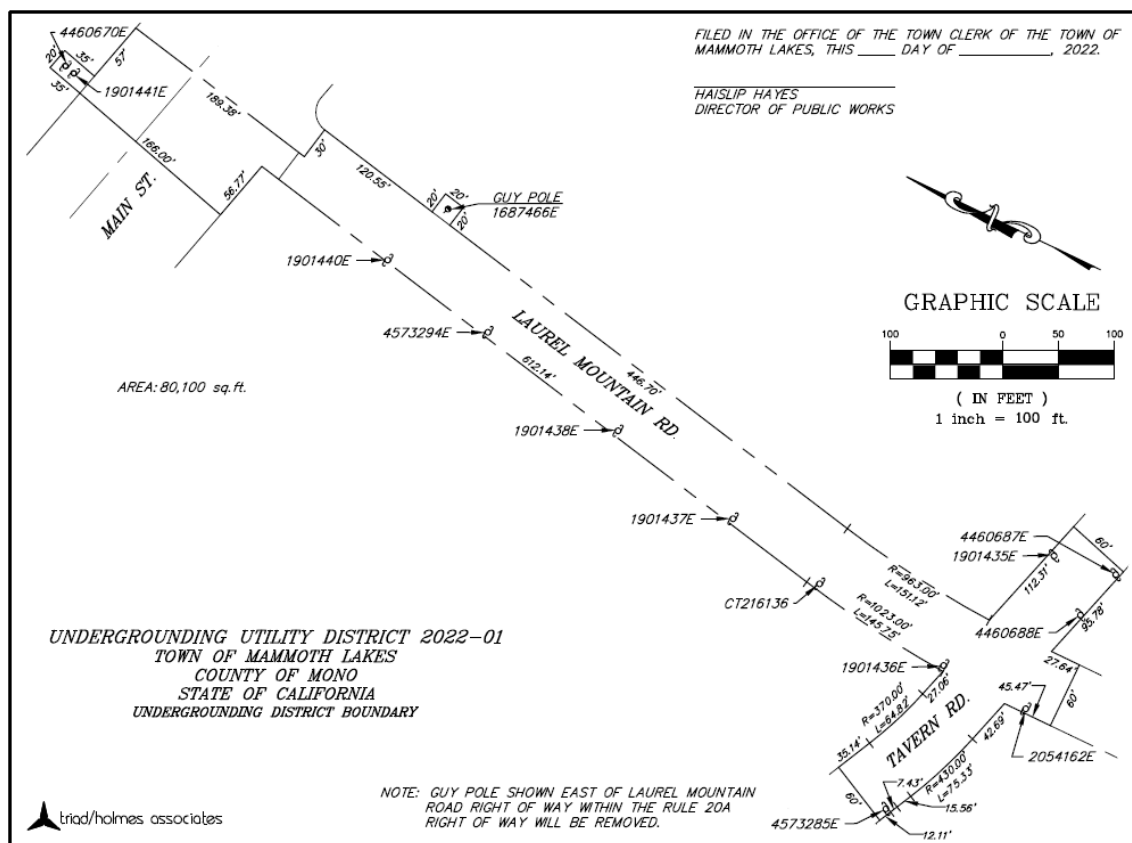
The boundary of Underground Utility District 2022-01 includes the area contiguous with Laurel Mountain Road between Main Street (SR203) and Tavern Road, inclusive of Tavern Road approximately 100' east and west of the intersection of Laurel Mountain Road. All as more particularly described on that certain map entitled "Proposed Underground Utility District No. 2022-01" (Exhibit C). Underground Utility District No 2022-01 meets the Town's and CPUC's guidelines for undergrounding overhead utility lines. The undergrounding project will support the development of the Parcel and better integrate the housing project into the neighborhood, and will improve aesthetics, safety, and utility system reliability.

ANALYSIS:

The formation of the proposed the UUD is in the interest of public health and safety and will facilitate the removal of utility poles and overhead utility lines to provide underground utility mainline along the corridor and new underground service to developed properties. Completion of the formation of the UUD will eventually improve utility system reliability, enhance corridor aesthetics, and reduce utility pole conflicts with other public and private facilities. Additionally, the formation of the UUD will:

- Prohibit the installation of new overhead utilities in the new UUD.
- Require that overhead utilities (overhead lines, poles, and associated structures) be removed within 180 days after the underground facility is complete.
- Increase the obligations of overhead utility providers to fund undergrounding of their telecommunication and cable infrastructure.

It is the Town's intention that all utilities place their telecommunication and cable infrastructure underground within 30 days of SCE undergrounding its electrical facilities, therefore, the UUD has little impact until there is a utility undergrounding project or a new project that requires new utilities. The Town is actively designing new infrastructure for Laurel Mountain Road as part of State Transportation Improvement Project (STIP) and in support of the Parcel. Staff estimates it will take up to three years to complete the design and implementation of this infrastructure.



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The staff time and minimal direct costs to the Town associated with the Rule 20A work will be covered by funds available in the Utility Undergrounding Project budget. At this time the Town has \$661,260 available for the project in Rule 20A funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The proposed action does not constitute a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act, per the CEQA guideline definition. The undergrounding of utilities is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines §15302(d), Replacement or Reconstruction.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Ordinance

Attachment B: Resolution No. 2022-15

Attachment C: Underground Utility District No. 2022-01