

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:
PROPOSED SANTA ROSA ROAD UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING PROJECT
(Underground Utility District No. 14)**

When is the Public Hearing?

The Public Hearing is scheduled for May 13, 2025, at 1:00 PM. County Government Center, Hall of Administration, Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California 93009.

When was the Noticing of the Public Hearing done?

According to Ventura County Ordinance No. 2063 all affected private owners and utility providers were to be notified of the Public Hearing at least ten (10) prior to the date thereof. The notices were sent out by Real Estate Servies, PWA, on or before April 25, 2025. No private property owners are anticipated to be affected by cost. The private property owners located off Orians Flights Way are expected to have power disruption of less than one workday. Edison informed PWA that AT&T, Frontier and Spectrum are also on the Edison polls in this proposed project. Notices were sent to all these affected. As of May 2, 2025 seven utility providers responded with no conflict letters.

What does the project involve?

The proposed undergrounding of overhead utility lines and the removal of utility poles along Santa Rosa Road in two segments - the first, along Santa Rosa Road just west of Moorpark Road and ending just east of Andalusia Drive and, the second, Santa Rosa Road at the intersection with Vista Grande. The lines and poles which will be affected by the proposed project are identified on the accompanying map.

Who will do this work?

Edison, or a contractor hired by Edison, will trench and bury the electrical cables underground. Other overhead utilities will coordinate the undergrounding of their respective facilities with Edison or its contractor. After the undergrounding is completed, all overhead equipment will be removed by Edison.

Do I have to participate?

This project is dependent upon community support and approval by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. If the community desires the project and the Board of Supervisors approves, then all property owners within the proposed underground district will be required to participate in the project.

What are the advantages?

The overhead clutter will be removed, so that visual aesthetics will be improved. Reliability of Edison's service reliability will also be improved. Other communities which have undergrounded their power lines have experienced an increase in property values.

Will all overhead utility lines be undergrounded?

If the project goes forward, all utility lines within the project district boundaries will be undergrounded. The telephone lines in the proposed project area have already been placed underground. Cable television lines will also have to be placed underground, at the company's expense.

When will the project be completed?

The design engineering for this project will need to be completed, and any necessary utility easements obtained. This work will take at least one year to complete. Edison will then schedule the project for construction. However, depending on the number of approved undergrounding projects that Edison has, construction could be two to three years away.

What is Edison's cost for this project?

The cost of Edison's portion of this project is estimated at \$3,200,000. Edison's costs will be counted against credits that Edison allocated to the County of Ventura under what is known as Rule 20A. The amount currently allocated to the County of Ventura is \$3,285,735. Edison will pay for all construction and installation of the project within the public right of way, as well as some costs described below.

What is the cost to each property owner?

Under Rule 20, there are circumstances in which there could be some cost to property owners served by an Underground Utility District. Customers are responsible for the material cost of all the conduit from the property line to the service entry box. There are also additional costs if the service entry is more than 100 feet from the property line.

However, notwithstanding the fact that property owners may be responsible for some costs for undergrounding, in this case, staff believes that all the residential properties associated with this project are already undergrounded. Thus, the estimated cost to each homeowner for this project is **\$0.00**.

Will the County pay any of these costs?

The County is providing staff time for Public Works' participation in the coordination, planning and approvals of the proposed formation of Underground Utility District No. 14.

Currently there are no other project costs to the County. Should any other costs to the County be proposed, they would be brought to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Who will do any service entry conversion?

There are no service entry conversions in the plans for Underground Utility District No. 14, and there are no anticipated changes that would include any service entry conversions.

If there were any service entry conversions needed, either the County or the property owner would be responsible for payment.

If the property owner is required to pay for this, he can make arrangements with a private electrician to provide the new service entry. Edison will make the actual switchover. Then the private electrician will remove the overhead mast.

If a property owner is required to pay for trenching and conduit beyond 100 feet, the property owner will pay Edison or Edison's contractor to do this, or if the work is done in conformance with Edison specifications, the property owner may be able to do the work or arrange to have it done; however, Edison or Edison's contractor will pull the wire.

If the County pays for the service conversions, the County will go to bid and hire an electrician to make all of the conversions in accordance with specifications prepared by the Engineering Services Division of the Public Works Department.

Will I have to change any substandard wiring on my side of the service entry?

The new service entry box will be completely up to code. You would not be required to make any changes on your side of the service entry. However, the electrical contractor that makes the service entry changes may identify any non-code conditions and suggest that you make the improvements. The decision as to whether to make any suggested improvements is completely up to you.

What if the majority of property owners in the proposed district do not want this project?

The "Rule 20" funds allocated to Ventura County would be transferred by Edison to a project in another municipality that did not previously have enough allocation for a viable project. Currently there are approximately \$3,285,735 of Rule 20 funds available to Ventura County.

What about Street Lights?

Edison will pay for trenching and service to the existing poles and streetlights. For these poles, any overhead wiring would be removed, and the service would be by a protected molding up the side of the pole.