

Howard N. Dashiell
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

Road Commissioner
County Engineer, RCE 42001
County Surveyor, PLS 7148



FUNCTIONS

Administration & Business Services
Airports
Engineering
Land Improvement
Roads and Bridges
Solid Waste & Landfills
Water Agency

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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April 11, 2023

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1090
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING COMMENTS REGARDING CREATION OF THE CASPAR UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION DESIGNATING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY OF CASPAR AS UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT NUMBER 11 (CASPAR AREA)

Honorable Board Members:

Chapter 22.04 of the Mendocino County Code sets forth a procedure for the creation of underground utility districts facilitating removal of existing overhead utility facilities and installation of underground utilities. The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), through Tariff Rule 20A, designates funds for replacing overhead facilities with underground facilities along public roads. This expense for undergrounding existing facilities is passed along to PG&E customers throughout the County.

By Minute Order (December 7, 1999), the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Department of Transportation to develop a proposed district site plan and conduct a public information meeting to verify the Caspar community's support for an underground utility district. By Minute Order (December 5, 2000), the Board placed Caspar second on the priority list for undergrounding utilities, behind Gualala (which is finished).

With instruction from the Board, these funds may be used to pay for the conversion (no upgrading) of the electrical panels at residences and businesses from overhead-compatible panels to underground-compatible panels.

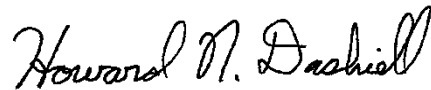
The majority of costs associated with the undergrounding project are to be funded through the Rule 20A Program which is administered through the State's Public Utilities Commission. A project of this nature is expected to take about 10 years, from design through final construction. This estimate includes the complications of obtaining permits in a coastal area and the long queue of projects with PG&E

Any area that has had service stations at some point in the past has a possibility for ground contamination by petroleum hydrocarbons. Once the areas to be trenched are confirmed, soil samples will be tested and if tests demonstrate that contamination is present, the County will need to coordinate the issue with the responsible property owners prior to construction.

The utility companies may need a few easements from property owners within the district to place their facilities along the project on private properties. The utility companies will not pay for easements. Staff will ask the affected underground district property owners, for the common good and the implementation of the underground utility district, to donate these easements gratis.

I will, of course, respond to any questions that you may have.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard N. Dashiell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'H'.

HOWARD N. DASHIELL
Director of Transportation

Enclosures

cc: DOT Project File