

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Date: October 17, 2001

Board Meeting Date: October 30, 2001

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Neil R. Cullen, Director of Public Works
Subject: Mirada Road Underground Utility District – Half Moon Bay Area

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution fixing a time and place for a public hearing on the formation of an underground utility district on Mirada Road from approximately Medio Avenue to Alameda Avenue.

Previous Board Action

Adopted an ordinance specifying the procedures to be used in forming underground utility districts.

Key Facts

- 1. We applied for and received a reimbursable Federal Transportation Enhancements Activities (TEA) Program grant to install a pedestrian bridge over the Arroyo de en Medio on Mirada Road in order to improve the existing coastal path in this area.
2. We are proposing to underground utilities as part of the project to facilitate construction and improve the views from the path. The cost of undergrounding utilities can also be used as the "local match" required for the TEA grant.
3. We contacted PG&E and they are requiring a larger underground district than is needed for the project as a condition of using Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Rule 20A Replacement of Overhead with Underground Electric Facilities credits (20A) that the County has with PG&E.
4. However, we believe the larger district is justifiable given the dual use of the Rule 20A credits to both finance the undergrounding of utilities and to provide the local match for the TEA grant.
5. Section 4.40.020 of the County Ordinance Code requires a public hearing before an underground utility district can be formed.

Honorable Board of Supervisors

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Discussion

We are currently working with the Planning staff of the Environmental Services Agency to process the necessary environmental document and to obtain a Coastal Development Permit for the proposed pedestrian bridge over the Arroyo de en Medio on Mirada Road.

We have also worked with PG&E to remove the overhead utility wires to facilitate construction and to improve the visual appearance of the area. PG&E is requiring a larger underground district than is necessary for the proposed construction, based on their interpretation of the PUC 20A regulations that requires undergrounding to extend for a minimum distance of one block or 600 feet, whichever is the lesser. The district as proposed would cover the unincorporated area from approximately Medio Avenue to Alameda Avenue, and all the poles (approximately six [6]) in the unincorporated area will be removed. Guy or support poles are located on the opposite side of Mirada Road within the corporate limits of the City of Half Moon Bay, and we will work with the City to also have these poles removed. Electric transformers will be located above ground in cabinets which is allowed by PUC 20A rules.

The conversion of any electrical service on private property is the responsibility of the property owner and notices will be sent to affected property owners in the area indicating the impact of the proposed underground utility district and notifying them of the public hearing. However, all the properties in the proposed district except one are currently served via underground service from the utility poles, and therefore we do not anticipate that these property owners will incur any costs associated with this proposed district.

Fiscal Impact

The cost for undergrounding all overhead facilities within the road right-of-way is estimated at \$105,000 and is proposed to be financed with the County's PUC 20A funds or by the utility service providers.

The proposed pedestrian bridge is estimated to cost \$148,000 and will be initially financed with ½ Cent Transportation funds. TEA funds in the amount of \$148,000 which are received on a reimbursable basis, will be used to reimburse the ½ Cent Transportation Fund.

There is no impact to the General Fund.

A form of resolution has been approved by County Counsel.

Honorable Board of Supervisors

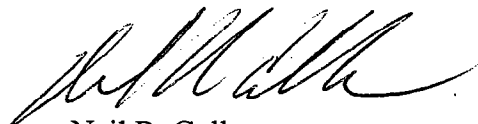
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A copy of this report has been sent to the MidCoast Community Counsel and we will report any comments that we receive.



Neil R. Cullen

Director of Public Works

NRC:BEK:JAL:KEM:sdd

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F:\USERS\ROGROU\KAREN\MIRADA\BSREPORT SET HEARING UG DIST.DOC

cc: Laura Stein, MidCoast Community Council
Milt Mares, County Counsel

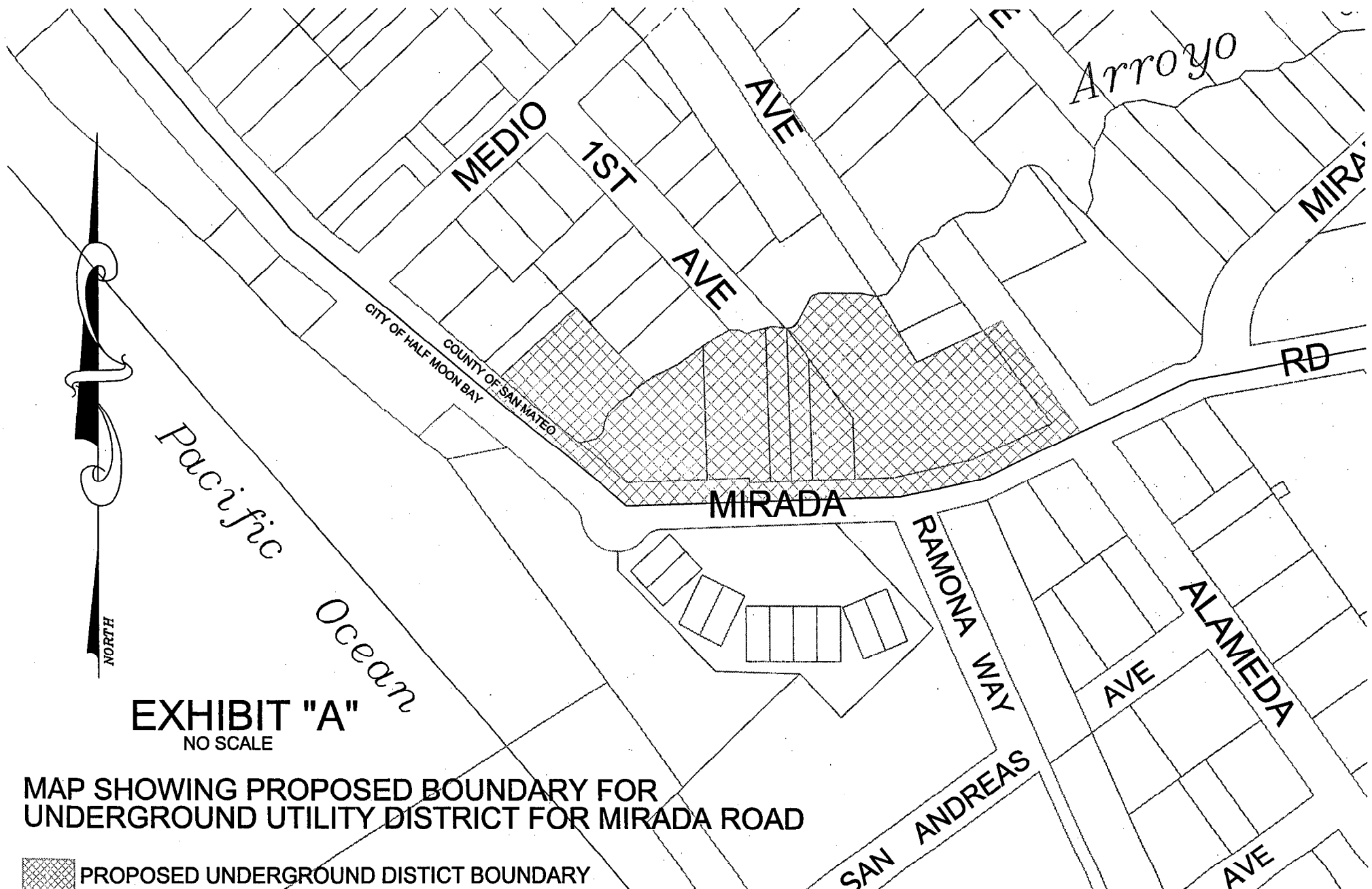


EXHIBIT "A"
NO SCALE

MAP SHOWING PROPOSED BOUNDARY FOR UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT FOR MIRADA ROAD

 **PROPOSED UNDERGROUND DISTICT BOUNDARY**

Resolution No. _____

Board of Supervisors, County of San Mateo, State of California

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**Resolution Fixing a Time and Place for a Hearing on the Formation of a District for
Undergrounding Utilities – Mirada Road from approximately Medio Avenue to
Alameda Avenue in the Half Moon Bay Area**

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, pursuant to with the provisions of Section 4.40.020 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, a public hearing is required to determine if the public health, safety or welfare requires the undergrounding of utilities within designated areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, there has been presented to this Board a proposal to remove existing overhead utility lines and place said utility lines underground on a portion Mirada Road in the Half Moon Bay area:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that:

1. This Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to determine whether the public necessity, health, safety or welfare require the formation of an Underground Utility District and the removal of poles, overhead wires and associated overhead structures within the area, said District being shown on that certain plat entitled "Map Showing Proposed Boundary

for Underground Utility District for Mirada Road,” as shown on Exhibit “A,” attached hereto.

2. Said Public Hearing will be held at 9:15 a.m., on Tuesday, November 20, 2001, in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors located in the Hall of Justice and Records at 400 County Center, Redwood City, California.

3. The Director of Public Works shall notify the owners of property within the proposed district and the utility service providers of said public hearing at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said hearing as provided by Section 4.40.020 of the County Ordinance Code.

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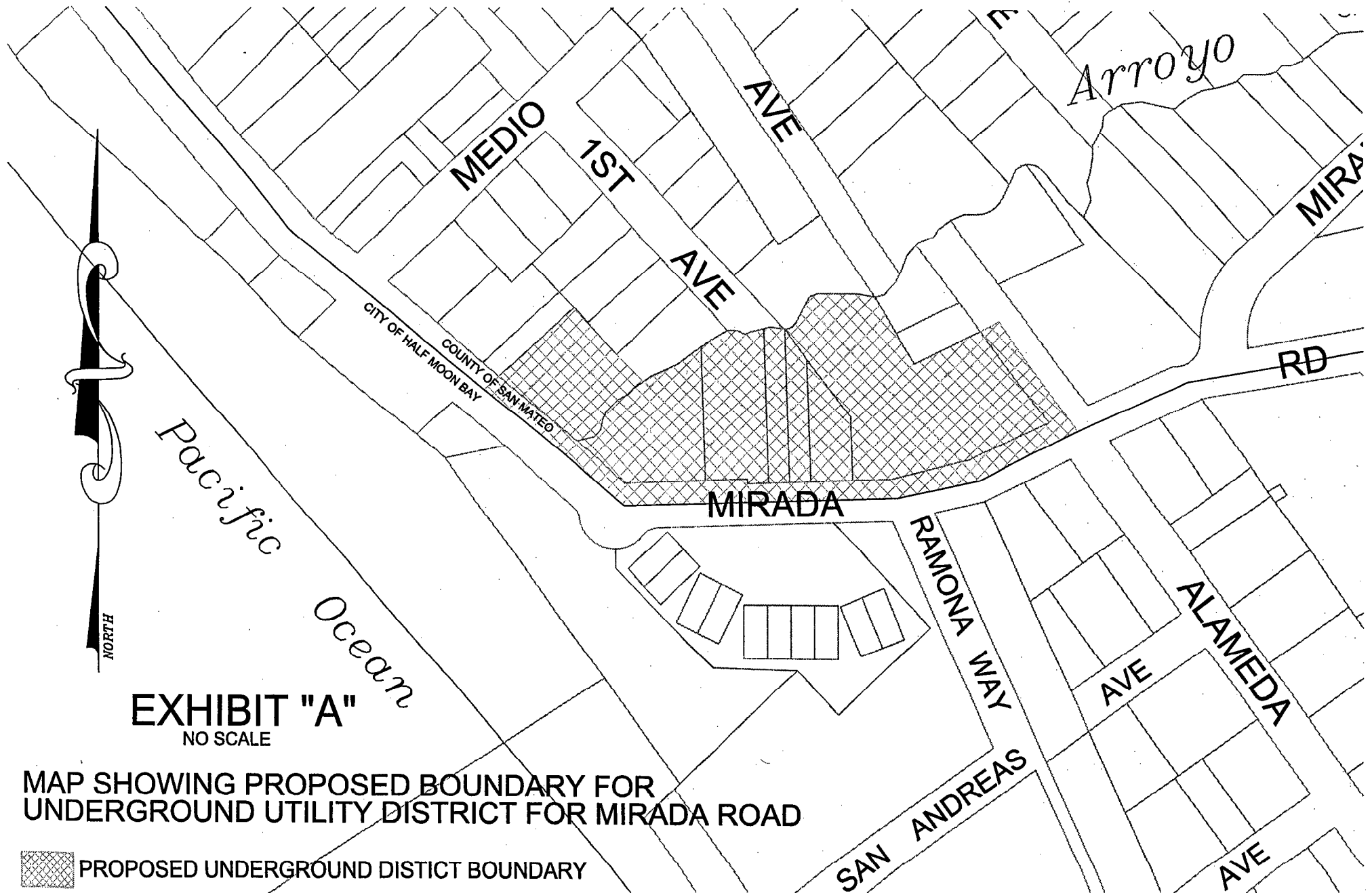


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