

**UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT No. 233,  
“MacArthur Boulevard Undergrounding Project”  
from 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to the San Leandro Border**

## **PROJECT UPDATE 2**

### **THE MACARTHUR UNDERGROUND PROJECT & THE MACARTHUR STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

When Councilmember Larry Reid (District 7)'s Office spearheaded the incorporation of the MacArthur Underground Project onto the MacArthur Streetscape Project, it became obvious that the City of Oakland (City) will accomplish both projects in one bold stroke. The alternative would have been to do the Streetscape Project first, which was originally scheduled to go ahead of the Underground Project. But some years later the City would have had to tear up the pavement again to implement the Underground Project. Now, the pavement will only be torn up once to accommodate both the Streetscape and Underground projects. The Council Resolution No. 76731 authorized the City to implement the Underground District.

### **WHO IS DOING THE WORK**

Underground Construction Company (Contractor) is installing the underground substructure, which consists of underground excavation; restoring the surface to its prior condition; and installing duct banks, streetlight foundations, service laterals, and electric panel conversions.

The City, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), SBC Communications (SBC), and Comcast are partners on this underground project. Each of the partners will install its own facility: PG&E will install new underground facilities such as cables, switches and transformers and terminate services in individual homes and businesses. SBC and Comcast will do the same with new underground telephone and cable TV services. Some of these power and communication systems will be based on newer technology than currently exists. The City will install 200 new streetlights, and 200 new ornamental pedestrian streetlights with provisions for holiday lighting.

The cooperation between the representatives from the public utilities (PG&E and SBC), Comcast, and the City is effective in bringing about the undergrounding project in East Oakland.

## **HOW MUCH WORK IS IT**

The project will trench the project length of two and a half miles on MacArthur Boulevard, a major arterial roadway, on both sides of the street. PG&E described this underground project as the second largest in its history. The project will:

- Excavate 46,000 linear feet of trenching
- Lay down 250,000 linear feet of conduit
- Install 1,200 pull boxes
- Install 400 streetlights
- Pull roughly 50 miles of various cables.

## **WHO IS PAYING FOR IT**

The Underground Project is funded by PG&E, SBC, and Comcast. PG&E is utilizing its 20A funds, SBC is utilizing its 32A funds and Comcast is providing its own funds to underground their respective facilities. The City pays for its share of the project with funds from the Community & Economic Development Agency (CEDA): Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) and City General Funds. Combined, PG&E, SBC, Comcast, and CEDA provided about \$22,000,000 to pay for the underground substructure and for installing their own facilities. CEDA will fund the MacArthur Streetscape Project.

## **WHEN WILL IT BE DONE (11/2005 – 11/2008)**

The Contractor will begin work to construct the underground substructure (conduits and boxes) in November 2005 and will be completed within 440 working days: The timelines are as follows:

- (1) Area No. 1: From the San Leandro border to 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 11/2005 – 8/2006.
- (2) Area No. 2: From 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 4/2006 – 1/2007.
- (3) Area No. 3: From 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, 10/2006 – 8/2007.

The City, PG&E, SBC, and Comcast will follow the Contractor and install their new underground services in the new substructure. Following completion of each segment of new underground services for power, telephone, and cable TV, the respective companies will energize and commission that part of the service. Finally, when all the properties are converted to the underground service, the overhead poles and wires will be removed.

**For more information on the MacArthur Underground Utility Project, please contact Mr. Paul Chan at 510-615-5427, email [pchan@oaklandnet.com](mailto:pchan@oaklandnet.com).**

**For information on the MacArthur Streetscape Project, please contact Mr. Emad Mirsaedi at 510-238-6603, email [efmirsaedi@oaklandnet.com](mailto:efmirsaedi@oaklandnet.com).**