



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager

FROM: Jim Arndt, Director of Public Works
Steve Finton, City Engineer
Clay Curtin, Management Analyst

DATE: October 19, 2010

SUBJECT: Status Update of Underground Utility Assessment District (UUAD) 6 and Update from Southern California Edison, Time Warner Cable, and Verizon.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file this report.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications in receiving this report.

BACKGROUND:

District 6 is generally described as The Strand to Highland Ave., between Marine Ave. and 15th Street. The District was formally approved on November 21, 2005, by 63% of voting homeowners and a resolution was passed by City Council authorizing the legal formation of the District.

Following nearly two years of initial delays due to a legal challenge and a technical redesign, civil construction began in late 2007. Civil construction concluded in late 2008 and then cabling, residential conversions, and cutovers began. We are currently in the final stages of individual property cutovers.

District 6 Project Timeline

<i>November 21, 2005</i>	District approved by 63% of homeowners who cast ballots and legal formation approved by City Council Resolution 6008.
<i>Dec 2005 to May 2006</i>	Delay due to a lawsuit brought by District 6 property owners.
<i>June 2006 to Sept 2006</i>	Bonds sold and construction bids solicited.

District 6 Project Timeline (continued)

<i>Oct 2006 to Oct 2007</i>	Technical redesign due to changes in underground infrastructure.
<i>Nov 2007 to Oct 2008</i>	Civil construction (trenching, underground infrastructure, and equipment).
<i>Nov 2008 to Present</i>	Cabling, residential service conversions, and individual cutovers.
<i>August 3, 2010</i>	Status update report presented to City Council

DISCUSSION:

District 6 Update

A letter dated October 8, 2010, was sent to all District 6 property owners informing them of the October 19, 2010, City Council agenda item regarding this status update and an update from Southern California Edison, Time Warner Cable, and Verizon.

At the time of the August 3, 2010, City Council meeting, only one property had been unresponsive and non-compliant in completing their private property service conversion. City staff initiated legal proceedings to complete the work; however, the out-of-state property owner ultimately did return and hire a contractor to complete the work. No other properties have since been identified that would require the City to take similar action.

City staff has been meeting with Southern California Edison, Time Warner Cable, and Verizon on a regular basis and tracking progress of the District while working to resolve any individual conversion issues. Weekly progress updates, including updated maps documenting the progress of each utility, are published to the City website every Friday (Attachment No. 1). There is also email notification to alert subscribers when the latest project status report is posted.

Southern California Edison

Southern California Edison is ninety-seven percent (97%) complete with private property cutovers and is working to resolve the remaining ten (10) service locations. City staff is assisting by coordinating City inspections and electrical releases. Edison anticipated that removal of portions of their overhead infrastructure (transformers, wires, etc), including pole-topping and/or pole removal, would begin by October 19, 2010. Temporary street closures will be required during that process and the permit requires them to notify affected residents no less than 72-hours prior to any work. It should be noted that it is the responsibility of the last utility on any given pole to complete the final pole removal.

Time Warner Cable

Time Warner reports that it has completed all individual property cutovers and is mostly finished with removal of their overhead infrastructure and lines. They have been working to finalize the permanent asphalt street patches where their crews had been working.

Verizon

Verizon is currently working on remaining individual property cutovers, with 210 out of 304 parcels (69%) completed as of October 15, 2010.

Following the August 3, 2010, City Council meeting, the City sent a letter to Verizon (Attachment No. 2) outlining the expectations discussed that evening and asking for a commitment to complete all work on District 6 by January 2011. Verizon responded with their commitment to meet these expectations. City staff has met with Verizon every other week in an effort to identify and resolve issues that arise, as well as track progress to ensure that all work is completed by January 2011.

CONCLUSION:

District 6 will begin seeing portions of the overhead infrastructure removed this month and final completion (including pole removal) in January 2011. City staff will continue to meet with each utility company on a regular basis to monitor progress and make status updates available on the City web site.

All three utilities were invited to attend this meeting and be available for questions.

Attachments:

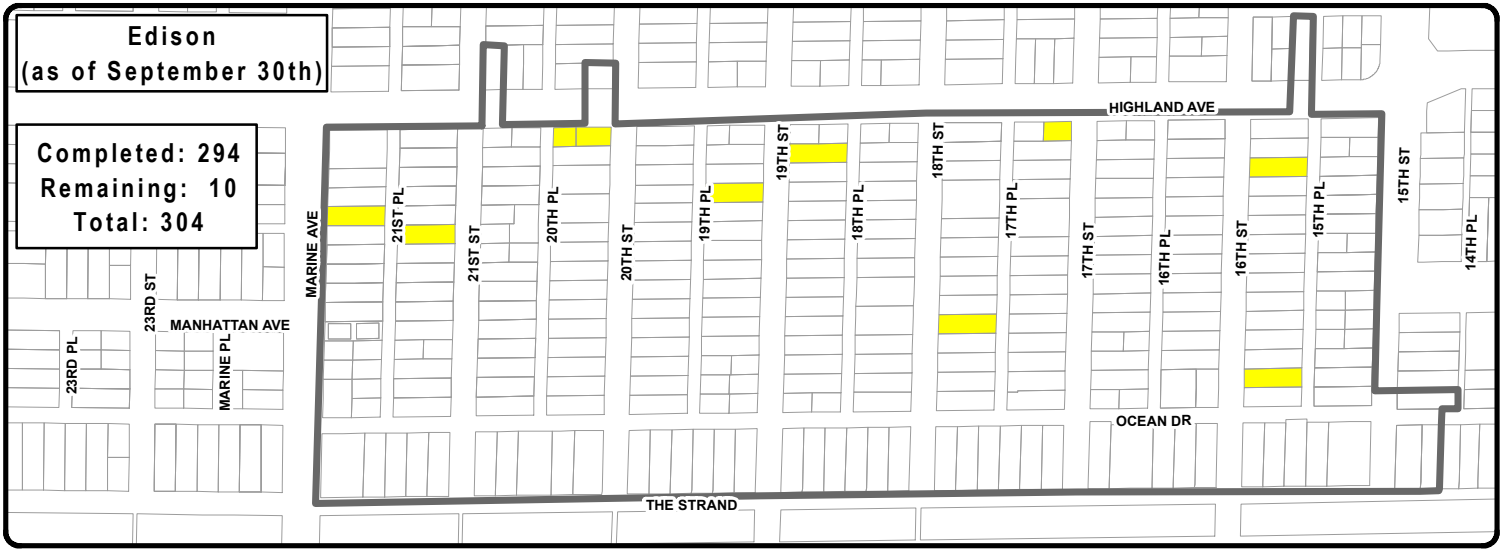
1. Underground Utility Assessment District #6 Report: Utility Conversion – Remaining Parcels as of October 15, 2010 (map)
2. August 5, 2010, Letter to Verizon

cc: Robert V. Wadden, City Attorney

Underground Utility Assessment District #6 Utility Conversion - Remaining Parcels

Report Date: 10/15/2010

Source: Utility Company Data





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August 5, 2010

Mike Murray, Director of Government & External Affairs
Verizon
One World Trade Center, Suite 206
Long Beach, CA 90831

Subject: Utility Underground Assessment District #6

Dear Mr. Murray:

This letter serves as a follow-up to the status report presented to the Manhattan Beach City Council on Tuesday, August 3, 2010, and the commitments made by Verizon. The City and its residents are disappointed in the slow rate of progress in District 6; however, we look forward to addressing the problem together and achieving an expeditious completion.

Based on the exchange during this meeting, the City is requesting that Verizon:

1. Provide within 30 days, a written commitment and work schedule showing a completion date by January 2011 at a rate not less than 20 homes per week.
2. Conduct pre-fielding work in District 6 to identify potential delays and provide timely alerts to City staff of properties or issues that require intervention or that could result in delays. Pre-fielding work should be complete and a report provided by August 20, 2010.
3. Provide weekly progress reports and updates via email and participate in regular meetings with staff (every other week to monthly, as needed) to coordinate remaining work.
4. Immediately resolve the issue of the loose/clanking vault lids. If a permanent solution is not immediately available to the missing/sheared bolts, an effective temporary resolution needs to occur by August 13, 2010.
5. Plan to attend and provide a status update of progress in District 6 at the City Council's October 19, 2010, meeting.

Per the City Council's direction, City staff will draft a formal complaint letter to the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in preparation for the October 19, 2010, meeting. If the City Council determines that sufficient progress has not been made, it will be their option to file the formal PUC complaint.

Additionally, it was requested that Verizon inventory their excess wires/coils hanging overhead throughout the City and provide a plan to remove any unused wires or to utilize those planned for service.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Clay Curtin at (310) 802-5309 or ccurtin@citymb.info.

Sincerely,

Richard Thompson
Interim City Manager

cc: Jim Arndt, Director of Public Works
Steve Finton, City Engineer
Clay Curtin, Management Analyst