



## Staff Report

### November 14, 2017

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council  
**FROM:** Brit Snipes, Town Engineer  
**DATE:** November 7, 2017  
**RE:** PG&E Rule 20-A and Creation of the Sierra College Boulevard Underground Utility District

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#### **Recommendation**

Approve Resolution Direct staff to proceed with using PG&E Rule 20-A funds on Sierra College Boulevard.

#### **Issue Statement and Discussion**

For several years the Town has looked for opportunities to utilize PG&E's Rule 20-A allocation. The Town Manager and Public Works Director have identified the power lines on Sierra College Boulevard between Brace and Granite to be a good candidate for these funds.

This section of Sierra College Boulevard is an entrance to the Town and qualifies for the Rule 20-A allocation. The other properties near this section have already undergrounded the overhead utilities. Eliminating the overhead lines in this section will complete the undergrounding of utilities in this section of Sierra College Boulevard, providing a clean and consistent gateway into Loomis.

#### **CEQA Requirements**

Undergrounding utilities is exempt from CEQA.

#### **Financial and/or Policy Implications**

The Town receives an annual allocation of about \$24,000 and currently has a balance of \$915,287 in Loomis's PG&E Rule 20-A account. The cost of this project is anticipated to be \$900,000. Any remaining money would stay in the Town's PG&E Rule 20-A account. If the project cost exceeds the amount in the Town's account, the account would go negative and be restored as future annual allocations are made to the account.

#### **Attachments**

- A. Resolution

**TOWN OF LOOMIS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOOMIS  
AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO**

**WHEREAS**, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has authorized electric and telecommunication utilities to convert overhead utility lines and facilities to underground pursuant to Electric Rule 20 and Telecommunication Rule 32, and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to certain criteria, CPUC rules allow participating cities and counties to establish legislation authorizing the creation of underground utility districts within which existing overhead electric distribution and telecommunication distribution and service facilities will be converted to underground, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Loomis, has adopted an ordinance authorizing the Town Council to designate areas within which all existing overhead poles, overhead wires and overhead equipment associated with the distribution of electric power, telecommunication services and cable television should be removed and replaced with underground wires and facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Public Works for the Town of Loomis has consulted with the affected public utilities and such utilities have agreed that the proposed underground conversion district, designated the Sierra College Blvd Loomis R20A Underground Utility District and more particularly described in Exhibit 1 attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, meets the criteria established by the rules of the CPUC, to wit,

that such undergrounding will avoid or eliminate an unusually heavy concentration of overhead electric facilities, and

that Sierra College Boulevard is extensively used by the general public and carries a heavy volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, and

that Sierra College Boulevard is considered an arterial street as defined in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research General Plan Guidelines, and

**WHEREAS**, each year the Town of Loomis is notified by PG&E regarding the allocation of work credits for conversion of overhead electric distribution lines and facilities to underground, known as Rule 20A allocations, and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Public Works for the Town of Loomis has consulted with PG&E and determined that the Town has accumulated Rule 20A work credits or PG&E has agreed that the Town may borrow against future credits sufficient to complete the proposed overhead to underground conversion project, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Loomis and the affected utilities have agreed by letter that each utility shall complete the engineering of their respective portion of the Sierra College Blvd Loomis R20A Overhead to Underground Utility Conversion Project, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Loomis and the affected utilities have agreed by letter that PG&E shall be responsible for preparation of the trench profile and composite drawings and that PG&E shall be designated as "trench lead" to manage trenching, installation of substructures, and pavement restoration and such other work, and

**WHEREAS** the Director of Public Works of the Town of Loomis and the affected utilities have agreed on a work schedule which meets their respective capabilities and further agreed to waive any administrative fees, costs or special street restoration requirements for purposes of this project, and

**WHEREAS**, to the extent required, the Town of Loomis has agreed to provide easements or rights of way on private property as may be necessary for installation of utility facilities in a form satisfactory to the affected utilities, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Loomis has now received the report from the Director of Public Works recommending that the area identified in Exhibit 1 should be designated as an underground utility district within which all existing overhead poles, overhead wires and overhead equipment associated with the distribution of electric power, telecommunication services and cable television should be removed and replaced with underground wires and facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the recommendation of the Director of Public Works, the Council of the Town of Loomis has determined that the proposed Sierra College Blvd Loomis R20A Underground Utility District is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Loomis has notified all affected property owners within the proposed Sierra College Blvd Loomis R20A Underground Utility District and inviting same to attend a public hearing to discuss formation of the proposed district, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Loomis held public hearings at which time the Council did receive and consider the recommendation of the City Engineer and did hear any and all objections or protests that were raised by the owners of property within the above described district pertaining to designating this area an underground utility district;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Loomis that:

**Section 1.** The public interest requires the removal of all existing utility poles [excepting those poles supporting streetlights, traffic signals or trolley lines], overhead wires and associated overhead structures and installation of underground wires and facilities for supplying electric power, communication, or similar associated services within the areas as shown in Exhibit 1, attached hereto, with such area being designated as the Sierra College Blvd Loomis R20A Underground Utility District, and

**Section 2,** That the utility companies, cable television services and other affected services shall commence work on installation of underground facility installation in Sierra College Blvd Loomis R20A Underground Utility District and that as each phase of the project is complete and ready for conversion from overhead to underground utility facilities, all fronting property owners shall be notified by first class letter, postage pre-paid, of the schedule for conversion of all utility service lines, and

**Section 3,** The electric utility shall USE the underground conversion allocation computed pursuant to decisions of the California Public Utilities Commission for the purpose of providing to each

premises requiring it in Sierra College Blvd Loomis R20A Underground Utility District a maximum of one hundred feet of individual electric service trenching and conductor (as well as backfill, paving and conduit, if required) and each other serving utility shall provide service trenching and conductor in accordance with its rules and tariffs on file with the California Public Utilities Commission or as required by its Franchise Agreement with the Town of Loomis, and

**Section 4.** The electric utility shall NOT USE said underground conversion allowance allocation, up to a maximum amount of \$1500 per service entrance excluding permit fees, for the conversion of electric service panels to accept underground service in the Sierra College Blvd Loomis R20A Underground Utility District, and the Town of Loomis shall be financially responsible for any and all costs not covered by the electric utility for the installation and maintenance of the conduit and termination box located on, under or within any structure on the premises served, and

**Section 5.** That upon notification as specified in Section 2, all property owners in Sierra College Blvd Loomis R20A Underground Utility District shall have underground electrical entrance facilities installed and inspected pursuant to the Town of Loomis Electrical Code within sixty (60) days and that should any property owner fail to install satisfactory underground electrical entrance facilities by the date specified in the notice, the electric utility shall notify the Director of Public Works who shall, within thirty (30) days direct the electric utility in writing to discontinue electrical service to the property, without recourse, pursuant to Rule 11 until electrical entrance facilities are ready to accept underground electrical conductors and have passed the necessary inspection requirements, and

**Section 6.** That once all services have been converted from overhead to underground, the utility companies, cable television services and other affected services shall remove all poles (except as specified above) and associated overhead facilities in Sierra College Blvd Loomis R20A Underground Utility District, by 12/31/2020.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:**  
**NOES:**  
**ABSENT:**  
**ABSTAINED:**

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Charleen Strock, Town Clerk