

CITY OF SANTA ANA

Public Works Agency



DIG ONCE POLICY

(Open Trench Construction Only)

Date: April 15, 2019

DEFINITIONS:

For the purpose of this directive, the following words or phrases are defined below:

- a) "Director" shall mean the Executive Director of the Public Works Agency or his or her designee
- b) "Excavation" shall mean any work in the surface or subsurface of the public right of way, including, but not limited to opening in the public right of way; installing, servicing, repairing or modifying any facility(ies), and restoring the surface and or subsurface of the public right of way
- c) "Directional Boring or Directional Drilling" trenchless methods of installing underground conduit and or pipe or cables by using surface launched drilling rig
- d) "PROW" shall mean Public Right Of Way
- e) "Excavator/ Permittee" shall mean any person and or principal representing and pulling a permit to perform with in the City's public right of way

PURPOSE:

The purpose of implementing a Dig Once policy include:

- Protect, prolong and minimize pavement structural integrity on newly paved and or constructed in the public right of way
- Ensuring efficient, non-duplicative placement of infrastructure in the PROW
- Minimize negative visual impacts; and
- Effectively review, coordinate and manage underground construction with utility companies, contractors and City projects
- Reduce overall costs of all underground work in the PROW by capitalizing on economies of scale
- Leveraging construction for the deployment of a public communications network

BACKGROUND:

Encouraging simultaneous underground construction and co-location of infrastructure in the PROW creates benefits both the community and all users of the PROW. The excavation of roads and cutting of sidewalks substantially reduces the lifetime and performance of those surfaces. Furthermore, each excavation diminishes the space available for future infrastructure. While aerial construction methods requiring attachments to utility poles are usually less expensive than underground construction, aerial installation have significant drawbacks, including a limit to the quantity of cables and attachments that can be placed on existing utility poles in more crowded areas, lack of ownership of overhead infrastructure, and greater exposure to outside conditions. Underground construction, using protective conduit, generally provides scalable, flexible, and durable long-term infrastructure.

PERMIT REQUIRED:

Any person who is required to repave a street shall obtain a street improvement permit and shall be responsible for the full cost of plan preparation, plan review, construction, inspection, material testing, bonds, and all other expenses related to the work.

POLICY DIRECTIVE:

Unless waived by the Director because of undue burden, or an unfavorable cost benefit analysis, or the consideration of other relevant factors, the PROW Excavator/Permittee will install two 3-inch diameter conduits for the following types of projects that has a minimum continuous open trench and or directional boring and or directional drilling length of 300 feet or more:

- a) Excavations for the purpose of installing utilities, including but not limited to communications, electrical, gas, water, wastewater, stormwater drainage.
- b) Other excavations, or work on public property or in the public right of way that provide a similar opportunity to install conduit for future use.