



San Francisco Department of Public Works (SF Public Works) Utility Undergrounding Program

Master Workplan Study introduction

July 25, 2019





*SF Public Works Utility Undergrounding
Program
Master Workplan Study Presentation*

Agenda

- Goal of the Study
- Governing Policies & Past Projects
- Lessons Learned
- Master Workplan Approach
- Benefits of the Study



Goal of the Study

**Create an Utility Undergrounding Master Workplan Framework
to address:**

**Safety, System Reliability, and Aesthetic Concerns
of Overhead Utilities in San Francisco**



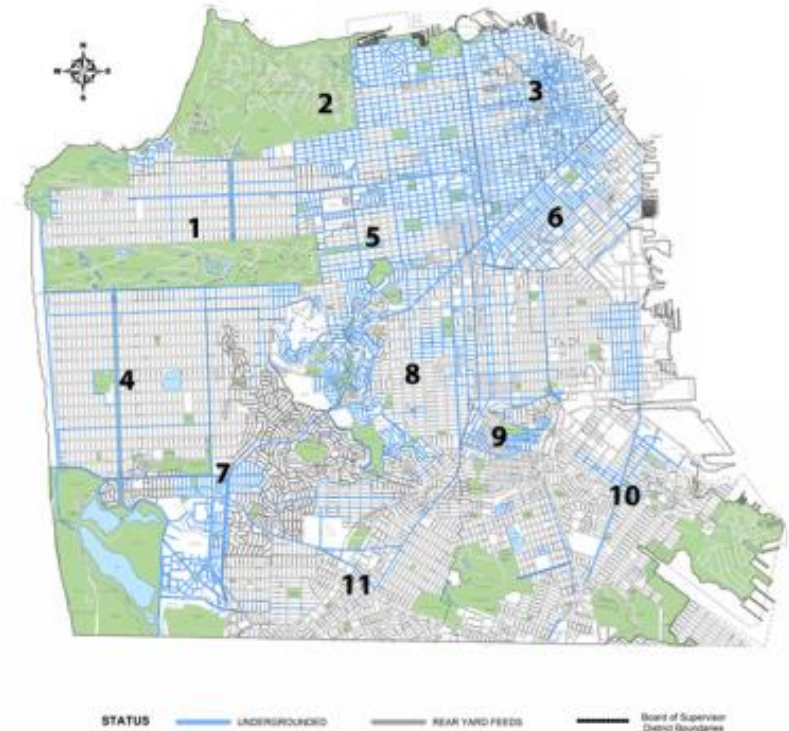
Governing Policies & Past Projects

- CPUC Undergrounding Program – established in 1967
- Rule 20 Tariff
 - CPUC rule sets policies/procedures for conversion of overhead lines to underground utilities.
 - Rule 20A – financed by utility ratepayers
 - Rule 20B – financed by applicant with utility subsidy
 - Rule 20C – financed by applicants (property-owner funded)
- Past Utility Undergrounding Projects/Reports Reviewed
 - 1996-2006 SF 43-mile Undergrounding Utility Project
 - Current _ SF 2nd Street Improvement Project
 - Other SF Utility Underground Studies – LAFCO, SF Public Works, UUTF
 - Other Cities' Utility Undergrounding Study - San Diego, Palo Alto, Berkeley



Lessons Learned

- Lack of Proper Project Execution Plan
 - Poor understanding of SF environments and planning with SF stakeholders
 - Lack of resources to complete project on time and within budget
 - Cost Overrun due to unplanned and unforeseen risk and site conditions.
- Cost vs Funding
 - SF cost of utility undergrounding ranges from \$3M/mile to \$13.8M/mile.
 - Roughly half of all utilities in SF are currently underground (around 500 miles remain).
 - SF Rule 20A Funding Allocation is approximately \$3M/year since 2011
 - Rule 20B and 20C Funding are available via an Underground Utility District



Master Workplan Approach

- Planning by Risk Mitigation and Alternative Funding
 - Data Base of type, location, ownership of overhead utilities and poles
 - Prioritize section of system to underground based on Safety, System Reliability and Aesthetic
 - Understanding cost per mile based on varying SF environment
 - Stakeholders cost sharing and responsibilities
 - Identify collaborations with other SF projects
 - Public Outreach Program
 - Policy and permitting streamlining
- Design and Construction
 - Existing Site Condition
 - Phasing and Constructability
 - Traffic Planning in High Density Area
 - Early Coordination and Collaboration with SF Stakeholders
 - Proper coordination of final cutover of the main and laterals
 - Schedule and Budget Management



Benefits of the Study

Provide a Framework for the Development of a Masterplan

- Assist stakeholders in Prioritizing for Capital Planning
- Minimizing Risk and Cost Overrun
- Identify Funding Sources
- Identify Collaboration Opportunities with other SF projects

