

**City of Oakland
Public Works Agency
Department of Infrastructure & Operations
Electrical Services Division
Update 3 – March 2006**

**UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT No. 233,
“MacArthur Boulevard Underground Project”
from 73rd Avenue to the San Leandro Border**

and

**MacArthur Streetscape Improvements Project
Portions of the area from 73rd Avenue to the San Leandro Border**

PROJECT UPDATE 3

THE MACARTHUR UNDERGROUND PROJECT & THE MACARTHUR STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The MacArthur Underground Project and the MacArthur Streetscape Improvements Project span 37 city blocks in East Oakland and it lies in two city council districts: District 7 under Councilmember Larry Reid and District 6 under Councilmember Desley Brooks. The extensive project is very fortunate to have the long time support of Councilmember Reid as well as the support of the newer Councilmember Brooks:

- District 7
Councilmember Larry Reid
Phone 510 238 7007
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612
- District 6
Councilmember Desley Brooks
Phone 510 238 7006
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612

WHAT IS THE CONTRACTOR DOING NOW

Underground Construction Company is the Contractor and they are excavating the substructure – which consists of trenches, duct banks, foundations and boxes. They are hauling materials in for the installation and they are hauling out any excess materials to

the dump site. They restore the street and sidewalk as they go along. The company is one of the most fully capable firms for this type of large infrastructure construction project.

One of the subcontractors W. F. Anderson Electric is working on the panel conversions. Anderson Electric will convert the electric panels in the properties from top-feed to bottom-feed. In this facet of the work, Anderson Electric will route conduits and place splice boxes on the buildings. They will work with PG&E to complete the panel conversion and energize the power system. Once the new underground service is operational, Anderson Electric will remove the remaining parts of the old overhead service.

SAFETY CONCERN

Heavy construction vehicles are operating in the work area everyday. These vehicles are huge for some of the side streets and tight corners. They haul heavy materials, steel plates, equipment, and even other construction vehicles. Safety is a priority now. Area residents need to pay attention to what is going on around them and they need to heed directions of flag crew and warning signs about danger.

At night time and after work hour, the Contractor and its subcontractors are responsible for the placement of barriers and barricades together with flashers, heavy wooden planks and steel cover plates to make the area safe. Residents must be mindful not to tamper with these safety barriers. Serious harm can occur to individuals from falls, cuts, etc.

TIMELINE FOR THE PROJECT (11/2005 – 11/2008)

The Contractor began to implement the underground substructure in October 2005 and will be completed within 440 working days: The timelines remain as follows until the Contractor submit new schedule:

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

Following completion of each area 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.

WHAT ARE THE PARTNERS TO THE PROJECT DOING NOW?

The City, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), AT&T California (formerly SBC), and Comcast are partners on this underground project. They finance the project together and share the same joint trench. This way, all the partners reduce their individual cost compared to what it would have been if each entity were to dig its own trench. This is

where unity shows its strength. Here are some of the things the partners are looking forward to do next:

- PWA DIO Electrical Services (the City) will install the streetlights as the contractor complete the foundations. This is to ensure integrity of the system and to make it safer for the residents. The lights will not be energized until after the new PG&E underground electric power system is fully functional and energized. The City will install 200 new streetlights, and 200 new ornamental pedestrian streetlights with provisions for holiday lighting.
- PG&E and AT&T California. As soon as the Contractor completes the substructure for Area No. 1, PG&E and AT&T California will start to install new underground facilities in this area. They will be working together over the 13 blocks that constitute this area. PG&E will install their cables, switches and transformers and terminate services in individual homes and businesses. AT&T California will install new underground telephone services. Some of these power and communication systems will be based on newer technology than currently exists. At the very least, the equipment would be new and good for a lifetime of service to the subscriber of these services. Residents of underground districts normally enjoy the use of new equipment which tends to have fewer problems.
- Comcast. The fourth partner on this project – Comcast – will wait for the Contractor to finish the substructure in Area No. 1 as well as the substructure in Area No. 2 before it springs into action. Its work is characterized by fiber optic cable which operates best with the least number of splices. So this part of Comcast’s work is best done after the Contractor has completed the substructure in at least two of the areas. It is likely Comcast will work from the 82nd Avenue location and proceed in the San Leandro City direction to install their new underground services in the new substructure.

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

For more information on the MacArthur Underground Utility Project, please contact Paul Chan, Project Manager at 510-615-5427, email pchan@oaklandnet.com.

For information on the MacArthur Streetscape Project, please contact Mr. Emad Mirsaeidi at 510-238-6603, email efmirsaeidi@oaklandnet.com.