

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Deputy Mayor Atkins Celebrates Utilities Undergrounding Project In Talmadge

SAN DIEGO -- On Thursday, Oct. 27, at 4:30 p.m., Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins, community members from Talmadge, city officials, and representatives of San Diego Gas and Electric and Cox Communications will come together at the intersection of 49th Street and Lucille Drive to kick off a beautification project that includes undergrounding the overhead utility lines in Talmadge.

"Undergrounding has been one of my top priorities during my time on the City Council," said Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins, a longtime champion of expanding the program into residential communities.

In 2002, the City of San Diego gained approval from the California Public Utilities Commission for a residential undergrounding program which aims to underground all utilities citywide over the next 20-30 years and quadruples the rate of undergrounding projects from this point on.

"The start of the Talmadge Block 3FF project, the first of its kind under the 2002 agreement, is a testament to the City Council's desire to aggressively complete undergrounding throughout the City of San Diego," said Atkins. "I'm delighted that Talmadge and Council District Three will be the beneficiaries of the first large-scale residential project."

Placing unsightly overhead power and communication lines with safer and more reliable underground systems is a priority for San Diego. Almost 1,000 miles of overhead utility lines remain to be undergrounded and it is estimated that the entire city will be undergrounded over the next 20 to 30 years. Approximately 30 to 35 miles of overhead lines are undergrounded throughout the city each year.

Construction will begin on October 31, 2005, in the Talmadge area bounded by Madison Avenue, 51st Street, Montezuma Avenue, Collwood Boulevard and El Cajon Boulevard, and will include the conversion at the residences of approximately 731 customers and 11,588 feet of overhead utilities at an estimated cost of approximately \$10 million. The project will also include the installation of new street lights and trees and the curb-to-curb repair of affected streets.

Utilities undergrounding projects take place throughout the city year round. For general information about underground scheduling citywide, call the Utilities Undergrounding Information Line at (619) 533-3841.

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