



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

DATE OF NOTICE: April 16, 2025

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE: The City of San Diego (City), as Lead Agency, has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Report for the following proposed project and is inviting your comments regarding the adequacy of the document. The draft Environmental Impact Report and associated technical appendices have been placed on the City's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) web-site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/ceqa/draft>.

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: Comments on this draft Program Environmental Impact Report must be received by close of business on May 31, 2025 to be included in the final document considered by the decision-making authorities. When submitting comments, please reference the project name and number (Utilities Undergrounding Program PEIR). The City requests that all comments be provided electronically via email at: PlanningCEQA@sandiego.gov. However, if a hard copy submittal is necessary, it may be submitted to **Greg Johansen, Environmental Planner, City of San Diego Planning Department, 202 C. Street, 5th floor M.S. 413 San Diego, CA 92101.**

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION:

- Project Name: Utilities Undergrounding Program
- SCH No. 2018101037
- Community Plan Area: Citywide
- Council District: 1-9

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of San Diego (City) Transportation Department is implementing the Utilities Undergrounding Program (Project) to systematically convert overhead utility lines, including power distribution lines, telephone lines, cable lines, and other communications lines, to underground within City limits. The overall Project is governed by the California Public Utilities Commission, Council Policy 600-08, and the San Diego Municipal Code. The City's Utilities Undergrounding Program Master Plan (Master Plan), developed in 2003 and last updated in 2018, guides future work of the Project. The Master Plan is the governing document for how the Project will execute its future work. The Master Plan outlines the geographic boundary, estimated cost, and other parameters for future undergrounding projects to be implemented under the Project. The goals of the Master Plan are to align with Council Policy 600-08 for the Project, improve planning efficiency and accuracy, prioritize projects with the greatest public benefit, reduce neighborhood impact, and simplify public interface with the Project. The implementation of proposed activities would occur based on a prioritization system developed by the City and would be implemented as individual districts become ready for creation and as funding allows. The process to deliver an undergrounding project under the Project is a collaborative effort between the City and the utility companies that consists of a five-stage process: district creation, design, pre-construction activities, undergrounding construction, and post-undergrounding improvements. The City has addressed permitting and environmental compliance activities on a project-by-project basis to date. This Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), prepared in conformance with the California

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. and 14 CCR Section 15000 et seq., respectively) is intended to programmatically address potential environmental impacts associated with undergrounding projects implemented under the Project. These impacts are analyzed to the extent feasible at this time; however, additional project-level CEQA analysis and/or new or amended permits may be required for undergrounding projects prior to implementation.

APPLICANT: City of San Diego, Transportation Department

RECOMMENDED FINDING: The draft Program Environmental Impact Report determined the proposed project would result in potentially significant environmental effects in the following areas: Biological Resources; Historical, Archaeological and Tribal Cultural Resources; and Noise.

AVAILABILITY IN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT: To request this Notice, the draft Environmental Impact Report, and/or supporting documents in alternative format, call the City Planning Department at (619) 235-5200 OR (800) 735-2929 (TEXT TELEPHONE).

For environmental review information, contact Greg Johansen at (619) 446-5372. For information regarding public meetings/hearings on this project, contact the Transportation Department's, Roman Anissi, at (619) 541-5594. This notice was published in the SAN DIEGO DAILY JOURNAL and distributed on **April 16, 2025**.

Rebecca Malone, AICP
Program Manager
Planning Department