## Undergrounding MOU

Franchise Compliance Review Committee April 19, 2023





# How It All Began





# One of a Kind Program





## **Desired Outcome**

# Good progress at a fair price

Consistency with City laws and policies





# Progress and Cost Efficiency – Past Outcome

Planned	Accomplished	Comparison
71 Projects	31 Projects	56% Less
200 Miles	100 Miles	50% Less
\$525 Million	\$405 Million	23% Less



# Progress and Cost Efficiency – New Terms



More formality to agreeing on targets



More reporting required



Increased cost controls



## Progress and Cost Efficiency – Present State



- Revenue growth versus cost escalation
- No longer have contribution of Rule 20A work credits



# **Project Cost Controls**

Past Terms

- Portion of cost records embedded in internal accounting
- No process to verify market prices for outsourced work

#### **New Terms**

- Separate accounting for Surcharge work [Electrical Franchise Sect. 8(i)]
- City rules apply to SDG&E procurement [Electrical Franchise Sect. 8(g)]
- Pricing proposals with commercially reasonable assurances [Electrical Franchise Sect. 8(g)]
- Access to all books and records [Electrical Franchise Sect. 8(j)]



### Project Cost Controls – Present State



- Accounting setup
- Public advertising performed
- Sharing of bid evaluation criteria

# **Budgetary Controls**

#### Past Terms

- Agreement contained no specific requirements for SDG&E
- Staff relied on past expenditures for setting budgets
- Staff relied on experience and judgement for mid-year projections

#### **New Terms**

- SDG&E to provide info at key milestone dates
  - Proposed Budget
  - May Revision
  - Mid-Year Projection
  - Year-End Projection

[Undergrounding MOU Sect. 12]



# Budgetary Controls – Present State

- SDG&E adapting to change in first year of these new requirements
- Already proving to be a very helpful addition





# City's Option to Self Perform – Past Terms

- Took too long to agree on specific terms of the work
- Cabling, service cutovers and overhead removal deleted from City scope
- Cooperation challenges during execution of the projects
- Successfully completed design for three projects and major undergrounding construction for one project



# City's Option to Self Perform – New Terms

- States "design reviews and inspections... shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed" [Electrical Franchise Sect. 10(f)]
- Extensive use of "Grantee will cooperate" [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 6]
- Clarified roles for easements [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 7.11]
- City choice of which projects to self-perform, but same scope limitations [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 4.1.3 and Sect. 6]



# City's Option to Self Perform – Present State



Three projects that started under old

agreement have resumed

• Working through some initial challenges





# Processes that Remain City-Controlled



- Prioritization of projects
  - Equity in how program funds are distributed
- SDG&E work requires DSD permits
  - Effective at managing construction impacts





# Written Requirements to Cooperate

- SDG&E to participate in field review of proposed boundary [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 4.3.1]
- Promptly notify City if boundary needs modification [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 4.3.2]
- Meet and confer on suspended projects [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 4.7.3]
- Scheduling of project startup [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 7.1]



# Written Requirements to Cooperate (cont'd)

- Shall not remove power to streetlights without permission [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 7.10.8]
- City access law and arborist review early coordination [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 7.12]
- Comply with MMRP and schedule with City monitor [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 7.13]
- Participate in community forum meetings [Undergrounding MOU Sect. 7.10.8]



# Conclusion

- Agreement more like a regulation than a contract
- Thicker rulebook strategy being tested
- Reliance on working relations with SDG&E
- Independent audit process will bring an objective evaluation
- Desired outcomes remain the same:
  - Good progress at a fair price
  - Consistency with City laws and policies





#### Sherman Heights







#### Kellogg Park







## **Mission Beach**







# **Thank You!**