

City of San Diego

Administrative MOU with SDG&E regarding the Gas and Electric Franchises

Heather Werner

Deputy Director, Sustainability and Mobility Department



Overview

The Gas and Electric Franchise awarded to San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) came into effect July 11, 2021.

The Franchise agreements identifies the need for an Administrative Memorandum of Understanding to further detail and dictate the expectations, processes, and implementation of the agreements; establish categories of work for which no specific permit is required; and outline the conditions and restrictions on the authority of the MOU.

The MOU is a two-year agreement reviewed and updated at the submittal of a two-year plan of anticipated projects by SDG&E.

The Admin MOU went into effect November 1, 2021, and will reopen for negotiations in Spring 2023.

Purpose

Franchise (9.a): “Grantee’s exercise of rights to install, maintain, and operate its facilities in the Streets of the City shall at all times be subject to obtaining and maintaining in force an Administrative MOU.” [O-21328]

- Establish a better working relationship between SDG&E and the City
- Utilizing enhanced communication and data-sharing technology to develop streamlined operational pathways where it is effective, safe, and to the benefit of the residents and businesses of San Diego

MOU Development Process

- 14 Working Group meetings over 8 weeks
- Several smaller tactical meetings on project criteria and data sharing
- Coordinated and led by Sustainability and Mobility Department

City of San Diego

- Sustainability and Mobility
- Development Services (DSD)
- Engineering & Capital Projects (ECP)
- Transportation
- Public Utilities Department
- Department of IT
- Office of the City Attorney

SDG&E

- Regional Public Affairs
- Design & Project Management
- Gas Operations - San Diego Region
- Electric Operations- San Diego Region
- Senior Counsel

Key Areas of MOU

1. Project Criteria for MOU Permit
2. Construction Standards and Requirements
3. Coordination with City CIP Projects
4. Data Sharing

1. Project Criteria for MOU Permit

MOU Permit applies for Category 1 projects that meet all criteria:

- a) Like-kind replacements
- b) No permanent impact or alteration to any City infrastructure.
- c) No work in ROW under moratorium.
- d) SDG&E facilities are not being installed in a manner that would restrict sidewalk clearance to less than 48" or within 10' of a pedestrian ramp/curb return.
- e) Work will not take place in any sensitive archeological or paleontological areas.
- f) Work does not create major disturbances of City landscaping.

Projects are entered into the DSD permitting system as "no review" plans.

1. MOU Permit – Approved Master Plans

Master Plan approval process for projects that are common and consistent, but do not meet the MOU Permit criteria

- City will review and approve Master Plan submitted by SDG&E
- City identifies if projects under Master Plan specifications can be moved under the MOU Permit process
- Master Plan can also be referenced in a standard permit process to assist in permit review and processing time

This process is anticipated for projects that are low-impact but do not qualify as “like kind” – such as replacing a wood pole with a steel pole in a close but not-exact location.

2. Construction Standards & Requirements

MOU reinforces commitments in the Franchise agreements

- Emergency Projects
 - Immediate notification of emergency work
 - Temporary work standards and ongoing inspections
 - Immediate response on notification of safety hazard of temporary measures
 - Retroactive permit timelines
- Construction Impacts to City Infrastructure
 - Restoration of all city assets impacted by construction
 - City infrastructure brought to current accessibility standards if out of compliance

3. Coordination with City CIP Projects

- Both City and SDG&E will exchange project schedule information.
- SDG&E will conduct preliminary conflict checks for City CIP projects.
- Greater detail regarding Standby service process and documentation.
- Where feasible, Traffic Control for City CIP projects will be utilized for SDG&E relocation projects.

4. Data Sharing

- Development of a shared-data portal for real-time project information
- SDG&E will make available as-built data of their assets in the ROW
 - Shared through ArcGIS layer
 - Both gas and electric assets
- Ongoing coordination to develop an additional Project Data ArcGIS site to identify all ongoing SDG&E projects to be used in conjunction with City CIP project GIS data for coordination, deconfliction, and tracking.

Thank You