

Utilities Undergrounding Program

October 23, 2018

Transportation & Storm Water
Department



Scoping Meeting Overview

- Project Description
- Environmental Review Process
- Scoping Meeting Purpose
- How do I comment?

Project Presentation Overview

- Project Background
- Project Description
- Project Location
- Construction Process Details

Project Background

The Utilities Undergrounding Program is an existing City program with other parties involved:

- San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E)
- Communications Utilities (telephone, television, broadband data)
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

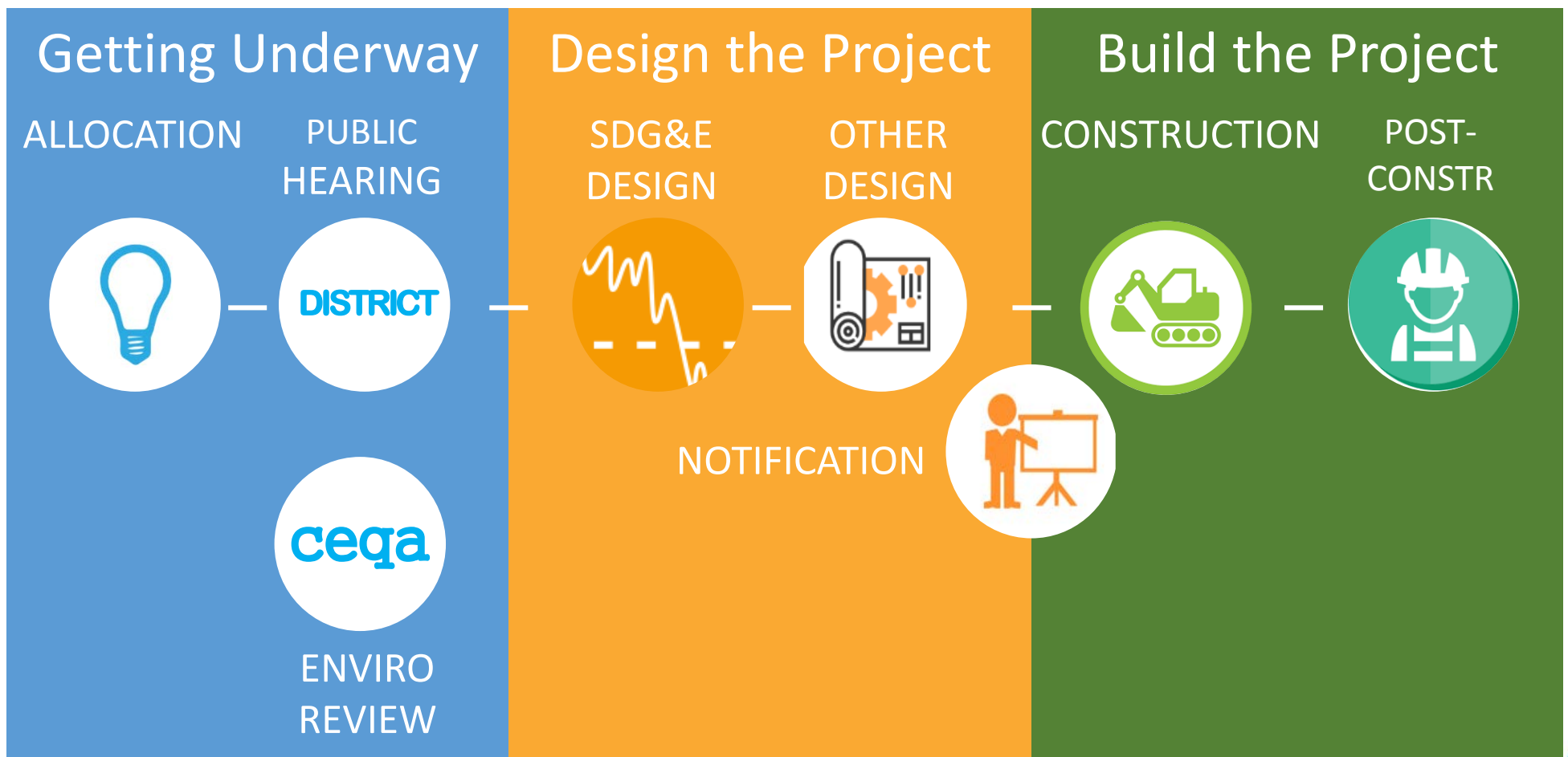
Project Background

History:

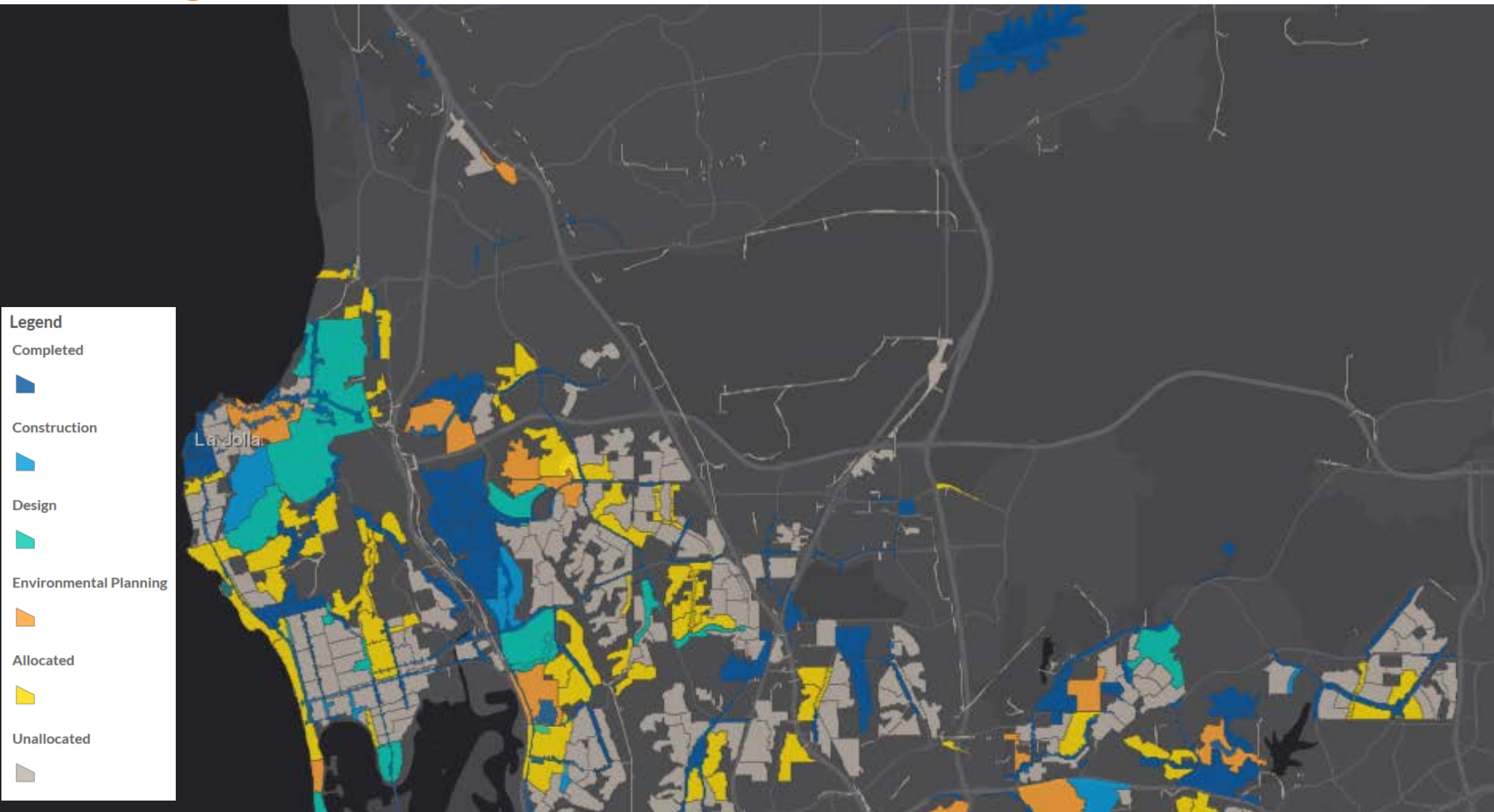
- 1967 – CPUC established Rule 20A mandating undergrounding
- 2002 – City with CPUC established a broader mandate for undergrounding within City of San Diego boundary
- Council Policy 600-08 and Municipal Code Ch 6 Art 1 Div 5 establish local undergrounding policy and requirements

Project Description

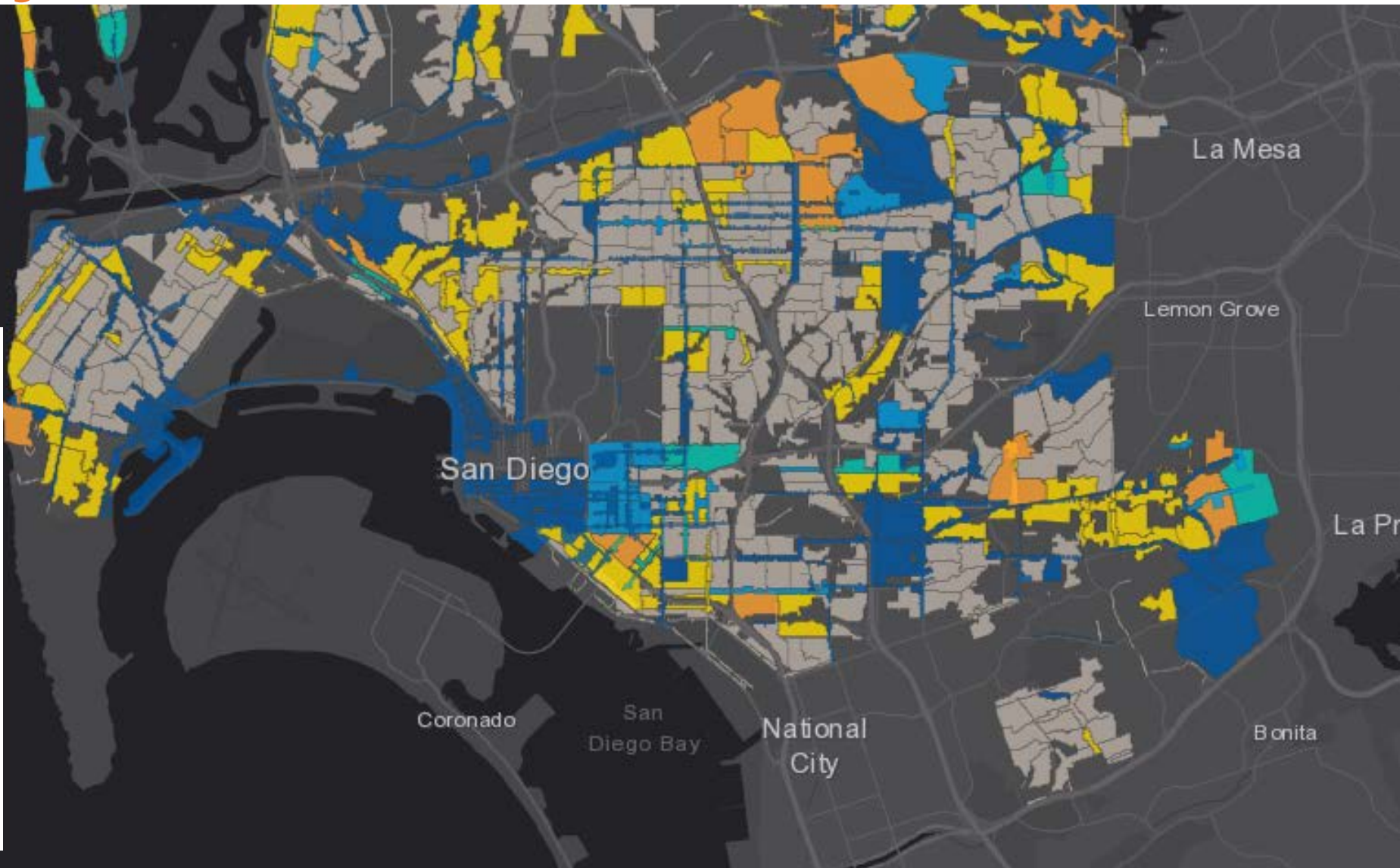
Process for implementing an undergrounding project:



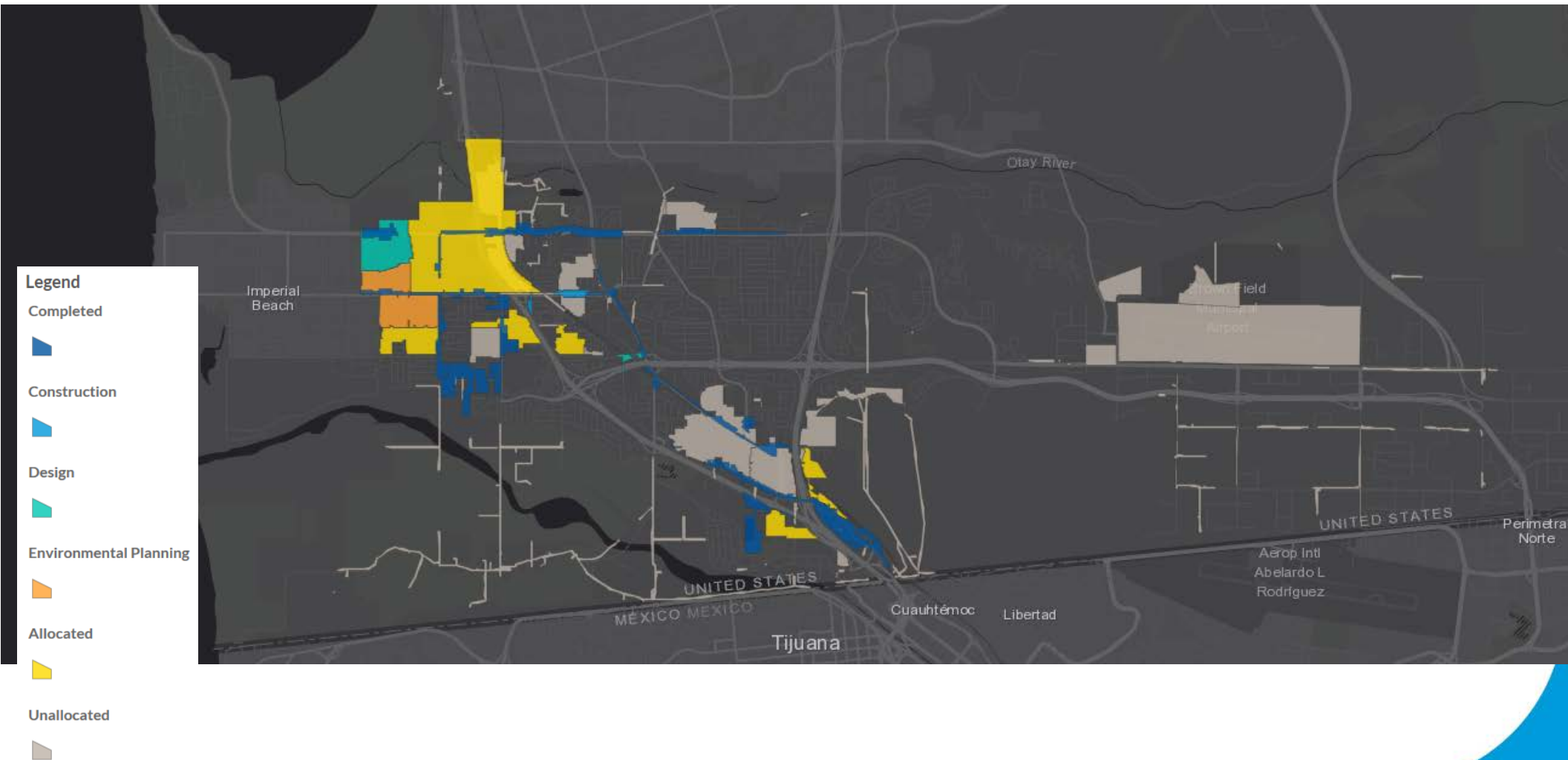
Project Location (North)



Project Location (Central)



Project Location (South)



Construction Process Details

From breaking ground to removing poles and resurfacing the streets, construction takes place in the following phases:

- Phase 1 – Trenching or Tunneling
- Phase 2 – Cabling
- Phase 3 – Cutover
- Phase 4 – Pole Removal
- Post Construction Improvements - Curb Ramps, Street Lights, Resurfacing, and Trees

Construction Process Details



Phase I: Trenching

In this phase, crews create a trench and install round plastic conduit below the surface of the roadway. The crews will also trench up to each of the homes and businesses at this time. This is the most community impacted phase of construction and typically can be expected to last 9 to 12 months. On average, most trenching crews can perform 100 feet of trenching or more per day, so trenching operations can be expected to be in front of any particular home or business for just a few days. During this phase, a separate electrical contractor will be working on the electrical panels of the individual homes and businesses in order to prepare them to receive the new underground service.



Construction Process Details

Phase II: Cabling

In this phase, technicians place new utility lines within the new conduits. The new lines are then energized and brought into service. Residents will most likely hardly notice the few crews who perform this work as this work has very little community impact. This phase can be expected to last between six to nine months.

During this phase, residents will probably notice the new transformer and cable boxes and pedestals being placed above ground near the curbs. These boxes are necessary for the underground system and cannot be placed underground for system reliability reasons.



Construction Process Details

Phase III: Cut-Overs

Once a new underground system is in place and energized, and all properties have been prepared to receive underground service, all properties are switched over from the overhead lines to the new underground systems. This phase will typically take one to two months.



Construction Process Details

Phase IV: Pole Removal

When 100% of properties have been switched over to the new underground system, the overhead systems are de-energized and removed. This phase can last two to three months.



Post Construction Improvements

- Curb Ramps – New pedestrian curb ramps are installed where needed for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.
- Street Lights – Old street lights attached to wooden utility poles are replaced with stand-alone fixtures after old poles are removed.
- Resurfacing – Pavement damaged by undergrounding work is repaired and receive a slurry seal or resurfacing treatment. Concrete street sections or gutters impacted by construction are repaired or replaced.
- Trees – New street trees are planted if property owner agrees to care for them until they are established.



EIR Purpose

- Discloses project impacts to public and decision makers.
- Identifies ways to avoid or reduce environmental impacts.
- Analyzes alternatives.
- Fosters interagency coordination and public review/participation.

Notice of Preparation

- Contains a brief description of the project, its location, and where documents relating to the project can be found.
- Notifies responsible agencies and other interested parties that an EIR will be prepared.
- Solicits input regarding the scope, focus, and content of the upcoming EIR.
- Distributed for a 30-day public review period.

Environmental Review Process

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - Inform public and decision makers of potential environmental impacts
 - Encourage public involvement
- Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
 - Analyze potential impacts and mitigation measures
 - Analyze cumulative impacts and alternatives to the proposed project

Overview of the EIR and Public Hearing Process



Purpose of Scoping Meeting

Receive public input on the scope of environmental issues in the Draft EIR:

- Land Use and Planning
- Visual Effects and Neighborhood Character
- Air Quality / Odor
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Historical Resources (Built-Environment and Archaeology)
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Water Quality
- Noise
- Paleontological Resources
- Public Utilities
- Solid Waste

Alternatives

- Consider range of reasonable alternatives
 - Avoids or lessens an impact
 - Feasible
 - Meet most of the project's objectives
- Mandatory alternatives
 - No Project Alternative
 - Identify Environmentally Superior Alternative

Utilities Undergrounding Program

For more information about the Utilities Undergrounding Program and Project Updates:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/undergrounding>

EIR Scoping Comments due by Wednesday, November 14



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(Please include project name in subject line)