

RESOLUTION NO. 06-025

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR THE CREATION OF UNDERGROUND UTILITY ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, the undergrounding of utilities contributes to neighborhood beautification, the improvement of scenery, and an opportunity to upgrade infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to clarify its intent regarding the undergrounding of utilities;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to be responsive to residents who want to be assessed for utility undergrounding; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to clarify the public policy allowing for the creation of underground utility assessment districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. General Statement of Policy. It shall be the policy of the City of Santa Barbara to support the undergrounding of utilities when requested by the homeowners of a particular neighborhood.

SECTION 2. Neighborhood Underground Utility Assessment District Formation. Neighborhoods that seek to have utilities undergrounded should submit a petition in accordance with the requirements of Santa Barbara Municipal Code Chapter 4.60. The City will support petitions through City staff coordinating with local utilities, providing a handout defining the process, and funding support.

SECTION 3. Funding of the Engineer's Report. The City will fund start-up support for the formation of a District. This support consists of an Assessment Engineer, who prepares the Engineer's Report, obtains the cost estimates, and assists with the Proposition 218 voting process. If the assessment district is ultimately approved, the City will be reimbursed, and the costs of the start-up support will be made part of the assessment. If the district fails to be approved, the City will not seek to recover the funds.

SECTION 4. Expected Construction Contributions by the City. If the assessment district is approved by the property owners and City Council, the City will not contribute to any of the construction costs.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA) ss.
)
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Santa Barbara at a meeting held on April 18, 2006, by the following roll call vote:

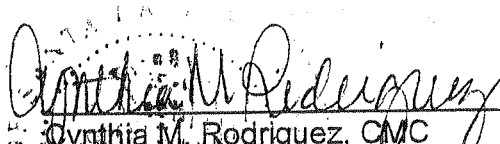
AYES: Councilmembers Iya G. Falcone, Roger L. Horton, Grant House, Helene Schneider, Das Williams; Mayor Marty Blum

NOES: None

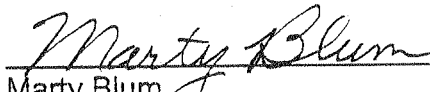
ABSENT: Councilmember Brian B. Barnwell

ABSTENTIONS: None

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Santa Barbara on April 19, 2006.


Cynthia M. Rodriguez, CMC
City Clerk Services Manager

I HEREBY APPROVE the foregoing resolution on April 19, 2006.


Marty Blum
Mayor