

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT  
AGENDA REPORT  
April 26, 2016

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*Old Business*

## ITEM 8b

### Undergrounding Utilities

A meeting was scheduled and held on 4/21/16 with SDGE and our consultants with Utility Specialists Inc., to discuss the concern with the placement of the transformers if this project is to be done.

SDGE has looked at the proposed placement of transformers on the RR side of the roadway and indicated that this will work with the exception of two locations where the block wall would have to be moved back about 8 inches. This, however, only applies to the portion of the community north of the turnaround at 35531 where the right of way is 30 feet wide.

The roadway south of the turnaround is narrower, only 20 feet, which means there is no space over on the RR side to place transformers (it looks like there's more space than that but it's all open RR parking). Likewise, on the seaward side of the road, there is even less space at ground level. This could possibly mean that undergrounding of utilities in the southern half of the community is not done at all OR it may be possible to just leave the transformers in their current locations on the power poles.

The poles could be new modern more attractive poles, as opposed to the old wood telephone pole type that currently adorn our community.

One other huge factor in the proposed project, that is only recently being discussed, is the current issue with FEMA and their recent efforts to revise the Flood Insurance Rate Maps to take into account the expected rise in sea level over the next 25 to 30 years. The high-hazard flood zone is expected to extend all the way back to Beach Road in that time period which could put all the transformers underwater.

Maybe the solution is to just leave ALL the transformers on poles so they don't have to be put back up there in 30 years and just run the cables and conduits underground. This scenario could create a solution for the entire community and prevent the whole road from being disturbed by confining the excavation to a narrow section along the seaward side – this could possibly save the community a lot of expense now and in the future.