

Meeting #623

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
June 28, 2016

Old Business

ITEM 8b

Undergrounding Utilities

Last month it was reported that there is an issue with available space on the ground in the southern half of the community to fit ground-level transformers. While the southern half of the road seems wide enough, the reality is that the District's right-of-way for the road in this area is only 20 feet in width (the northern half of the road is 30 feet). All the extra space you see is property owned by the Railroad and SDGE cannot place transformers on RR property. SDGE requires deeded easements and the RR folks do not grant easements – only temporary licenses for limited use. The seaward side in the southern half is a problem as well, with most homes sitting just a few feet from the roadway.

The possible solution of leaving the transformers on power poles, like they are currently, was put to the consultant who in turn discussed this idea with SDGE. This would require all power lines to run up the poles in conduits (remember, the power would be undergrounded) then back down to the underground system again until the next pole, and so on.

Since there has to be poles for the street lighting, the Board's thinking is to use the same poles for both the lights and the transformers, like it is now but without all of the overhead cables and wires.

The initial response from SDGE is negative to such a solution. The Board also understands that this scenario might not be well-received by southern homeowners either. The consultant for the proposed project is away on vacation and is not available at this time to discuss the issue, but has been asked, by email, to arrange a meeting with SDGE staff and members of the Board to explore options.