MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: MIKE EDWARDS, INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, CLERK OF THE BOARD

RE: UNDERGROUND UTILITIES - COURTHOUSE AREA

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on May 25, 1993

ACTION AND VOTE:

C) Discussion and Direction Regarding Payment of Costs to Convert Electrical Services on Private and Public Property Affected by the Mariposa Underground Utility District No. 1 Project

BOARD ACTION: Steve Cook/P G & E, provided input. (M)Parker, (S)Balmain, Res. 93-305 adopted approving expenditure, not to exceed $9,000, from the MCCJF Construction Fund with the Capital Improvement Projects budget and authorizing Public Works to negotiate with electrical contractors, as proposed/Ayes: Balmain, Erickson, Parker; Not Voting: Baggett; Excused: Taber.

cc: Evelyn Billings, Auditor
Tony Lashbrook, Planning/Building Department
PG&E - Attn: Les Nickerson
Historical Sites and Records Preservation Commission Chairman

File
RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:  (Policy Item: Yes____ No__)  

Public Works requests Board direction on the following proposals relative to the Mariposa Underground Utility District No. 1 project which is now under construction:

1. An expenditure not to exceed $9,000 from the "MCCJF Construction" Fund within the Capital Improvement Projects (C.I.P.) budget has been suggested by Supervisor Erickson to help expedite the individual conversion from overhead to underground service at each existing electrical service location within the District. This includes three County facilities, five private commercial buildings and six private residential buildings.

2. If the Board approves this expenditure, it is recommended that Public Works be allowed to negotiate with qualified and licensed electrical contractors, without a formal bid procedure, to conduct the work on a "time and materials" basis at the lowest available rates and upon approval of the contract(s) by County Counsel.

The usual manner to convert individual electrical services in an Underground Utility District such as this is to require that the affected parties make the conversion at their expense. P.G. and E. has served notice to the affected property owners (see attached sample letter) of this possibility. This recommended action would eliminate the financial impact to those private parties. The expenditure is justified for the Public Good to assure that all overhead facilities can be promptly removed and ensure the success of this beautification project. The Superior Court and Justice Court Judges have been consulted and support use of these funds for this project.

Due to the varied locations and unknown conditions of the existing electrical services, this project does not lend itself well to the formal bid process. Instead, it is proposed that staff be allowed to solicit quotes of hourly rates from qualified electrical contractors and select one or more based on rate and availability. This would result in lower overall costs and also help expedite the conversion process. The formal bid process adds time due to the required minimum advertising time, the time for the Board to formally award the contract, the additional time allowed for submission of bonds and insurance and the time allowed by law between a "Notice to Proceed" and actual start of work. The formal process adds costs for staff to prepare formal bid documents, advertisements and the bid security normally required.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board previously adopted Resolution No. 89-630 which established this District for purposes of expending a portion of Mariposa County's P.U.C. "Rule 20a" funds. This program's purpose is to provide funding to local agencies for undergrounding of utilities in scenic and/or historic areas. The project is being coordinated and conducted by P.G. and E. The funding does not pay for the required conversion of individual electrical service facilities.
The Board approved funding of the MCCJF line in the C.I.P. during the 92/93 final budget but did not allocate the funds to any specific projects. The funding is most appropriate to be spent on "Mariposa County Criminal Justice Facilities" (MCCJF) -- in this case, beautification of the Courthouse area. It is an unallocated fund within the C.I.P. that receives revenue from fines and forfeitures.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

1. No Action. The private property owners would be forced to pay for their individual conversion costs. No funding source would be available for conversion of County facilities. Individual conversions and removal of overhead lines would be delayed.

2. Provide funding only for the County facilities at an approximate cost of $2,000. Conversion of private facilities would be delayed.

3. Require a formal bid process. This would increase costs and the time to complete the conversion significantly, as described above.

4. Provide a different funding source.

COSTS:  
A. Budgeted current FY $13,096*  
B. Total anticipated costs $9,000  
C. Required additional funding $4,000  
D. Internal transfers $0

SOURCE:  
( ) 4/5th Vote Required
A. Unanticipated revenues $0  
B. Reserve for contingencies $0  
C. Source description: *MCCJF line in C.I.P. budget  
Balance in Reserve Contingencies, if approved: $0

* This was budgeted to this line but not allocated to any project(s).

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:  
List the attachments and number the pages consecutively:

1. Sample notification letter

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:  
This item on agenda as:

Recommended
Not Recommended
For Policy Determination
Submitted with Comment
Returned for Further Action

Comment:

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Res. No.: 93-305  
Vote - Ayes: ( )  
Noes: ( )  
Absent: ( )  
Abstained: ( )  
( ) Approved  
( ) Denied  
( ) Minute Order Attached  
( ) No Action Necessary

ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
County of Mariposa, State of California

By: Deputy

A.O. Initials: W

Action Form Revised 5/92
April 23, 1993

Mariposa, Ca. 95338

Re: Bullion Street, Mariposa

Dear Mr. Meyers:

The Board of Supervisors for Mariposa and County of Mariposa has ordered all utilities to remove overhead service wires which supply electricity, telephone and cable television to your residence. A copy Mariposa County’s order is attached.

Continuation of overhead service is contrary to Resolution No. 89-630 of the Mariposa County code. Overhead service must be removed by October 15, 1993. We intend to start this removal process on September 7, 1993. Overhead service to your property will no longer be available after that date.

We urge you to make the necessary rearrangements of your service facilities to accept new underground service. I will be available to meet with you and make the necessary arrangements for reconnection of your service to underground and try to avoid any unnecessary interruptions of your service.

If you are on rented property, please contact me at this office so I can make the necessary arrangements not only with you but also your landlord.

If you have any questions or if you would like to make arrangements for the transfer of your service from overhead to underground please contact me at (209) 966-3446.

Sincerely,

LES NICKERSON
Manager