

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

By: Michael Edwards Phone: 966-5356
Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes___ No X)

Public Works recommends that the Board accept the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Underground Committee to undertake Rule 20A undergrounding projects in the town of Hornitos and along 8th and Jones Streets in the town of Mariposa and that the Board authorize the Public Works Director to implement the necessary steps to proceed with these projects. Plans and Specifications will be brought to the Board for approval. The Board will be requested to form two new underground utility districts before proceeding with design.

Details of these projects are spelled out in the accompanying staff report.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has previously implemented underground utility projects in Coulterville and around the Courthouse in Mariposa. The Board has accepted Proposition 116 funding for the Sidewalk project in Mariposa.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

It takes approximately 1 1/2 to 2 years to bring these projects to completion. Staff is seeking direction from the Board prior to undertaking the detailed design process. Failure to utilize Rule 20A funds could result in their diversion to other Counties or communities. The overhead utilities need to be removed prior to construction of sidewalks planned for 8th Street and Jones Street.

COSTS: () Not Applicable

A. Budgeted current FY \$ _____

B. Total anticipated costs \$ 1,300,000.

C. Required additional funding \$ _____

D. Internal transfers \$ _____

SOURCE: () 4/5th Vote Required

A. Unanticipated revenues \$ _____

B. Reserve for contingencies \$ _____

C. Source description: Rule 20A funds from P.G.&E.

Balance in Reserve Contingencies, if approved: \$ _____

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

1. Staff Report (4 pgs.)

2. Underground ele. - Hornitos

3. Underground ele. - Mariposa

CLERK'S USE ONLY

Res. No.: 914-419 Ord. No. _____

Vote - Ayes: 4 Noes: _____

Absent: Talbot Abstained: _____

Approved () Denied

Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

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

Date: _____

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

By: _____
Deputy

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

Recommended

Not Recommended

For Policy Determination

Submitted with Comment

Returned for Further Action

Comment: _____

A.O. Initials: CP

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: MIKE EDWARDS, Public Works Director
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*
SUBJECT: Underground Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations
to Proceed with Rule 20A Projects in Hornitos and
Along Jones Street
Resolution Number 94-419

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on September 27, 1994

ACTION AND VOTE:

10:10 a.m. Mike Edwards, Public Works Director;

B) Resolution Approving the Underground Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations to Proceed with Rule 20A Projects in Hornitos and Along 8th and Jones Street, in Accordance with the Staff Report and Authorizing the Public Works Director to Proceed with Project Design

BOARD ACTION: Discussion was held with Mike Edwards and Dave Tucker/PWD-Engineer. (M)Parker, (S)Erickson, Res. 94-419 adopted. Motion was amended, agreeable with maker and second, to include direction that Public Works hold community meetings on the proposed projects, and that the advisory committees for other areas discuss this program and determine whether there is any interest for their respective areas/Ayes: Baggett, Balmain, Erickson, Parker; Excused: Taber.

cc: Ken Hawkins, Auditor
Jeffrey G. Green, County Counsel
Ed Johnson, Building and Planning Director
File

**Staff Report, Rule 20A
August 30, 1994**

Underground Ad Hoc Committee

The members of the Underground Ad-Hoc committee have been meeting since spring to identify potential projects of benefit to Mariposa County, for which the accumulating funds under Rule 20A, could properly be spent.

The members of the committee include:

Michael D. Edwards, Director of Public Works
J. C. McNally, Sierra Telephone
Joe Roan, Northland Cable T.V.
Brian McFaden, P.G.&E.
Steve Gunn, Hornitos Telephone

The following have provided staff support to this committee:

Dave Tucker, Department of Public Works
Jerry Sanders, P.G.&E.

Overview

P.G.&E., the telephone companies and most cable TV companies provide funding for undergrounding their distribution facilities. P.G.&E. funding is a specific P.G.&E. budget item which is allocated annually to the cities and counties within its service area based on the number of overhead meters in each community. Telephone and cable TV funding is not distributed by formula; these companies usually underground their facilities when and to the same extent that P.G.&E. converts its electrical distribution system with allocated funds. New construction within urban areas and subdivisions is now generally underground.

Within the next two years, Mariposa County will have a total of approximately \$1.3 million allocated by P.G.&E for undergrounding existing electrical service lines.

In 1967, in accordance with a California PUC decision, P.G.&E. established the Rule 20A program. A qualifying conversion project must meet the following criteria:

1. It must be at least one block or 600 feet long;
2. It must include both sides of the street; and
3. It must remove an unusually heavy concentration of overhead facilities, or be on a major street, or pass through an area of civic or scenic importance.

Expenditure of P.G.&E. funds in accordance with Rule 20A is planned and programmed by each community within P.G.&E.'s

service area. It is therefore up to each community to establish its own planning objectives, project priorities and local funding for those portions of each project not eligible for Rule 20A funding. Local public or private funds must be used for street lighting and for those portions of service laterals on private property that are in excess of 100 feet long. Conversion of service panel connections from overhead to underground is usually at the customer's expense.

In the past, the community of Coulterville utilities have been undergrounded. In the Spring of 1994, a project was completed for the utilities around the Courthouse, and along Bullion Street in Mariposa. For this project, the County paid for the private conversion costs, due to the unique and historic nature of the Courthouse area.

Review of Potential County Projects

After the completion of the Courthouse area undergrounding, the ad hoc committee undertook a thorough review of the County to determine where future projects should be recommended. An excerpt from the minutes of the committee meeting of April 20, 1994 are provided below:

...a total of twelve potential sites (were reviewed). During the discussion, several additional sites were suggested. These sites included:

1. Bootjack. Because of pending road realignments suggested in the TPA planning process, underground work here should be deferred.
2. Fairgrounds. Very expensive because of existing transformer equipment. One Highway crossing.
3. El Portal. No significant utilities meeting Rule 20 criteria.
4. Midpines. No significant utilities meeting Rule 20 criteria.
5. Fishcamp. No significant utilities meeting Rule 20 criteria.
6. Wawona. Nothing at highway. Lines on trees. Lines going through fields, rather than following roads or logical routes.
7. Yosemite West. Would not meet Rule 20 criteria.

8. Mt Bullion. Would not meet Rule 20 criteria.
9. Bear Valley. Would not meet Rule 20 criteria.
10. Hornitos. Entire town would be good candidate, and least costly of alternatives reviewed. Undergrounding would enhance tourism potential of this historic town.
11. Eighth Street in Mariposa from High School to Hwy 140. This would be good candidate and should be coordinated with 116 sidewalk construction project.
12. Bullion Street in Mariposa from 11th street west to Jones. This would essentially extend the recent Courthouse Underground Project.

The committee consensus was the Eighth Street, Hornitos, and Bullion Street should be given further consideration. Subsequent committee meetings and site reviews have refined these recommendations, and have defined recommended boundaries for two projects.

Recommended Projects

The ad hoc committee believes that sufficient funding is currently available, including funds that will accrue in the next two years, to fund two projects, Hornitos and along Eighth Street and Jones. The Hornitos project is roughly estimated to cost \$300,000. The Eighth Street-Jones Street project is roughly estimated to cost \$1,000,000. Each of these projects will take approximately 1 1/2 to 2 years to bring to fruition. Hearings, Engineering design and public cooperation must be achieved prior to starting construction.

Hornitos

It is recommended that electrical service for the entire community of Hornitos be undergrounded. The telephone service in Hornitos has previously been undergrounded. A map of the community is attached showing the overhead lines that would be removed. The committee is recommending that the two overhead lines crossing Hornitos Road at the junction of Bear Valley and High Street also be removed. The undergrounding would extend northwest approximately one block north of Water Street. Overhead would be removed in the community Square, and a riser would be placed on the East side of Burns Creek to carry service over the creek to the west. It is considered too expensive and environmentally difficult to cross the creek underground. There are approximately 36 utility service connections that

would be affected by this project. (The County could consider paying for all or a portion of private costs beyond 100 feet and for service panel conversions, due to the unique historical nature of the town. This is not proposed at this time.)

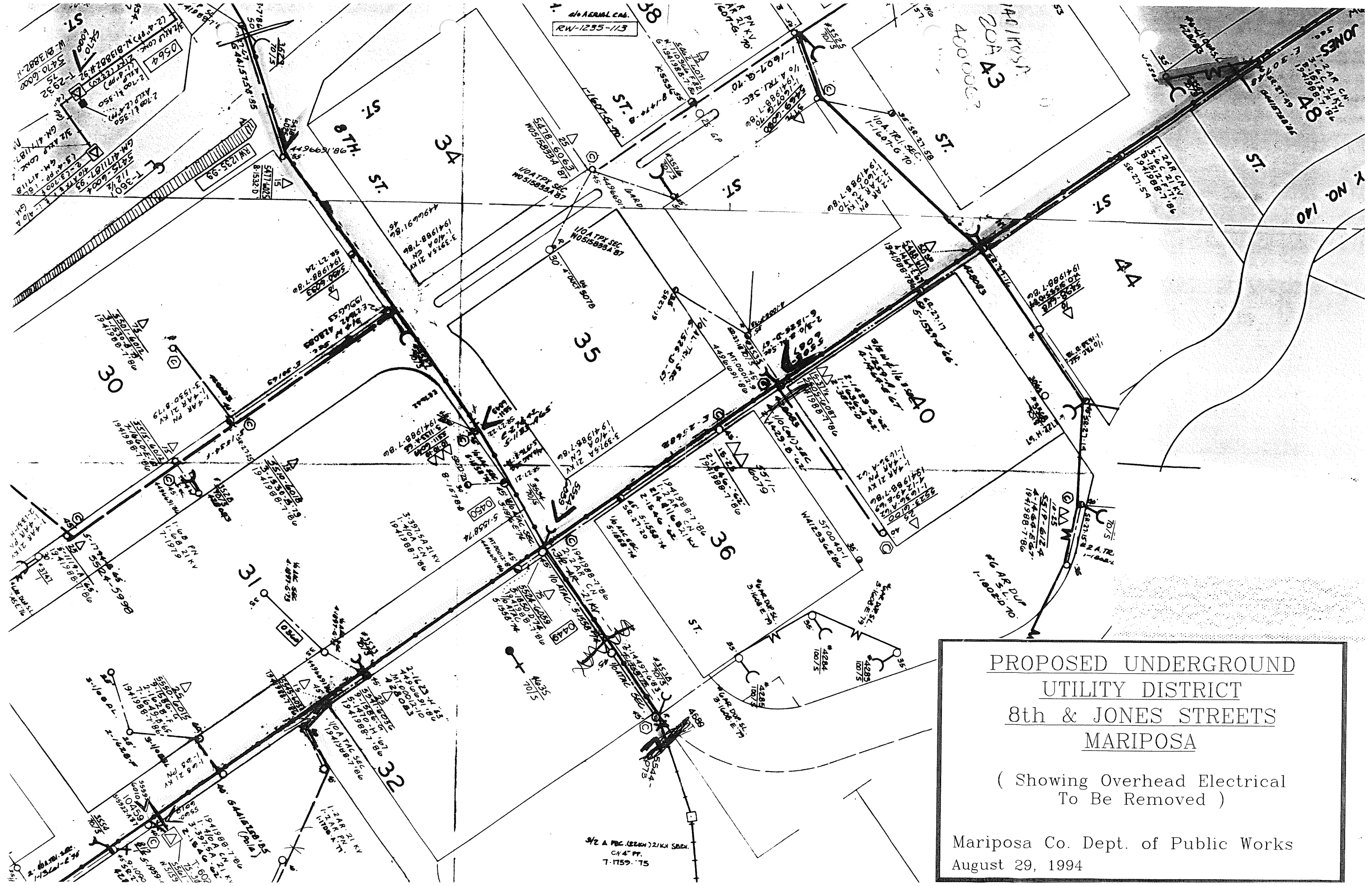
Eighth Street-Jones Street

A map is attached showing the overhead lines that would be removed for this project. On Jones Street the project would start just north of 7th street, on the north side of the Elementary School entrance steps and would run northwest to just beyond 11th Street. On 8th Street the project would include any overhead lines crossing Hwy 140-/49 and would extend east to the High School. The High School intends to underground their on-site parking lot overhead lights.

This project would be coordinated with the sidewalk project that is being funded under the Proposition 116 grant which the County has received. That project provides approximately \$600,000 for sidewalks along the Highway and to the schools. A map showing the planned route of the sidewalks is enclosed. Please note that we have not yet determined which side of 8th Street the sidewalk will be located on. The project could be further enhanced with low-level, historically appropriate lighting along the sidewalks. Funding is available within the Mariposa Lighting District (a dependent special district).

Next Steps

At the current time, validation of committee recommendations is being sought from the Board of Supervisors, prior to proceeding to public hearings and design. We are at Step 7 of the attached Typical Rule 20A Project Flow Chart. Community involvement of directly affected property owners will be essential for a successful project. Potentially there is an approximately \$500. cost per individual service for the conversion of the service entry box and mast from overhead to underground service. This is normally the responsibility of the individual property owner under the Rule 20A program. Some property owners might also wish to take the opportunity to upgrade their existing amperage ratings and wiring within their residences to code. In general, this is not required as part of this project. The Board may wish to consider some subsidies for private conversion. This is not requested now, but may be appropriate for discussion at the time plans and specifications are approved.

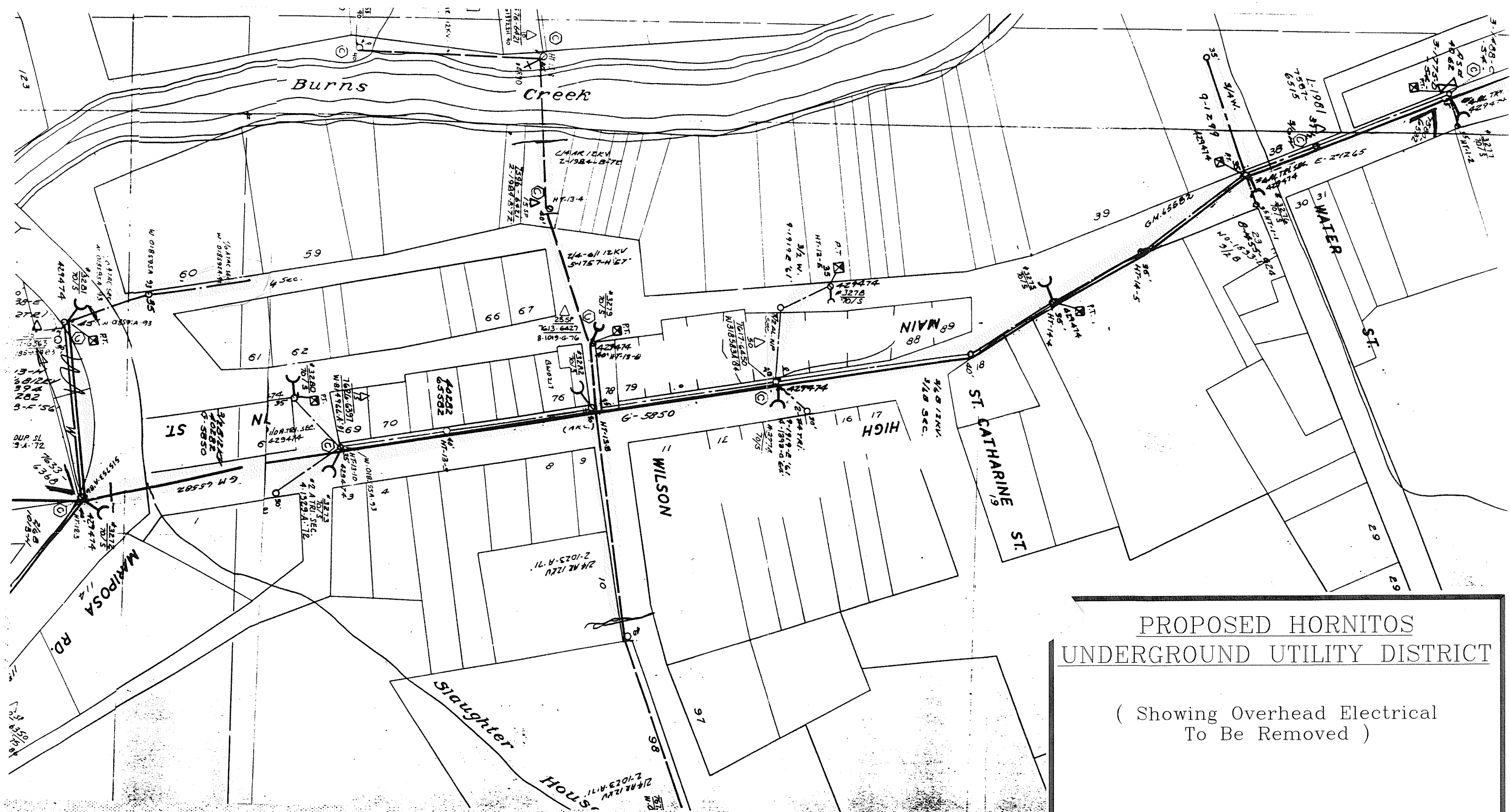


PROPOSED UNDERGROUND
 UTILITY DISTRICT
 8th & JONES STREETS
 MARIPOSA

(Showing Overhead Electrical
 To Be Removed)

Mariposa Co. Dept. of Public Works
 August 29, 1994

1/2 A P.C. (224) 21KX S.E. 1/4
 CH 4" PP.
 7-1159-75



**PROPOSED HORNITOS
 UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT**

(Showing Overhead Electrical
 To Be Removed)

Mariposa Co. Dept. of Public Works
 August 29, 1994