



MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF ALAMEDA DISTRICT NOMINATION BOARD

Alameda Municipal Power Service Center
2000 Grand Street (Corner of Grand Street and Clement Avenue)
Alameda, California 94501

Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

1. **CONVENE**

Meeting called to order at 6:08 PM by Chairman Serventi

2. **ROLL CALL**

On roll call, the following board members were present: Hoffman, Serventi, Buckley, Kozisek. and Petersen.

3. **AGENDA CHANGES AND DISCUSSION** – None

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – NON AGENDA** (Public Comment)

Comments deferred to agenda item 5.A.

5. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION** -None

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Minutes – DNB Meeting 22 September 2016 – *Unanimously approved*

5. **AGENDA ITEMS**

A. For Discussion, prospective UUDs and scorecard

Highlights of the discussions are below:

Travis Wilson, Alameda, spoke urging the board to remove the Webster Street district from consideration citing the lack of support for undergrounding this area in the past and concerns about negative impacts of increased property value on the impacted residents. He believes that many residents and businesses in the area would still be opposed to undergrounding the area. He acknowledged that the new undergrounding program addressed many of the past concerns, such as cost, but would like the program to grant affected property owners/renters the ability to reject an undergrounding plan. Gary Spenik, AMP, pointed out that this idea had been considered during the redesign of the undergrounding program but was not included the new policy. He also pointed out that there would be multiple opportunities for additional public input before the proposed districts are presented to the City Council for approval. These opportunities include a town hall meeting and a survey of those residents affected by a proposed district.

Tree maintenance data showing those trees that had conflicts with overhead wires was presented and discussed.

There was a discussion about whether the number of areas under consideration could be reduced any further from the current 13. Members felt that they wanted to see how all of these areas compared against each other before reducing the list any further. AMP staff will work on collecting data for the proposed areas.

The meeting continued with discussions about the scorecard.

Member Petersen had to depart at 6:45 PM.

The measures and weighting of the scorecard criteria was discussed with several suggestions being made. AMP staff will modify the scorecard which will be discussed further at the next meeting. Board member Kozisek suggested scorecard could be simplified to reduce the ratings to possibly three areas. For example: 1) How many people see the overhead structures, 2) How bad/ugly does it look, 3) How many sensitive areas are impacted

B. By Resolution, set future meeting date(s).

Next meeting is at 6 P.M., 10 November at the Alameda Municipal Power Service Center.

6. **UUD PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT** - None

8. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Letter dated 13 October 2016 From Travis Wilson, West Alameda Neighborhood Association, to DNB
(Enclosed)

9. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – NON AGENDA** (Public Comment)

Members of the public are invited to address the Board on any subject related to the activities of the Underground Utility District Nomination Board not otherwise appearing on the Agenda.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:29 PM



West Alameda Neighborhood Association

737 Haight Ave · Alameda, CA 94501 · <http://westalameda.org>

October 13, 2016

To: AMP Undergrounding District Nomination Board (DNB)

Hello. In this petition I ask the DNB for two actions:

- 1) Permanently annotate the Webster Street district on your list of UUDs, to reflect this district's historical objections to utility undergrounding. Change "Suspended 2012" to "Aborted 2012 due to neighborhood objection", and incorporate this letter by reference.
- 2) Remove the district from consideration in the set of districts you recommend to TAC.

The notes for the Webster St district presently say "Suspended 2012". This language implies that you intend to resume the work under roughly the same plan. Well, that's not really possible, because you're operating under an entirely new plan. The old plan was discontinued. I ask that you change the language to "Aborted 2012 due to neighborhood objection".

The neighborhood objection in that district is what led to the comprehensive redesign of the UUD effort and the creation of this board.* The entire program was redesigned at great effort, and yet no one has surveyed the residents in this district to find out if that redesign changed their minds. You certainly can't assume that the residents are now in favor of the project.

The new program is designed to remove some of their reasons for objection, like the financial cost and the need for residents to find their own contractors. Other objections remain, like the invasiveness of the work on private property, and the fear that the work will necessitate further upgrades to a house's electrical system. The new program has not yet converted any districts, so there's still plenty of uncertainty about its real costs and effects. The Webster St district, in particular, has been clear that they would like to see the results from previous districts before they accept work in their own district.

By 2016, one smallish factor grew more significant: property value. The more money you put into the aesthetic improvement of a property, the higher its value. It then commands higher rent, in a town whose hottest problem is high rent. The incomes of residents, and of some businesses, do not increase in accordance with the improvement you intend to make to the property. Property values are already rocketing up faster than incomes, and the Webster St district has already lost residents and businesses to this effect. Many folks would rather not exacerbate the problem any further.

As I understand it, there are plenty of other districts that would like to be undergrounded, so you can recommend them instead. I'm asking you to exercise your personal discretion here, based on public sentiment. Please do not recommend the Webster St district for undergrounding, until you have indications that the neighborhood is satisfied with the project and has withdrawn its objection.

Thank you,
Travis Wilson
Secretary, West Alameda Neighborhood Association

* See Doug Draeger's PUB brief at http://media.alamedamp.com/assets/PUB/2011/10/11-1017_6A_uud31.pdf . Pages 46-53 document the residents' sentiments regarding undergrounding.