



Agenda Item No. 10a. & b.

Staff Report Addendum

Date: June 18, 2020

To: Mayor McMillan and Councilmembers

From: Richard Simonitch, Public Works Director
Joe Chinn, Town Manager

Subject: Addendum to the staff report for the Town Council discussion and consideration of Resolution No. 2162 approving the Boundary Map of and declaring the intention to proceed with the formation of the West Ross Underground Utility District #1 and, adopt Resolution No. 2163 authorizing the Town Manager to enter into Consultant Agreements with CSW/Stuber Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc. for Assessment District Engineering services, and Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth for Bond Counsel services

Discussion:

Attached are all relevant correspondence received by staff to date (June 16, 2020) for the West Ross Underground Utility District #1 Agenda Item 10a & b.

Also included is a corrected boundary exhibit and a corrected parcel list showing the correct parcels that signed the petition. The only corrections from the exhibits you received in the packet are:

1. Map Exhibit adds 92 Glenwood and removes 21 Glenwood as petition signers.
2. Parcel List changes 21 Glenwood as "N" for not signing the petition.

This results in the only change to the percentages calculations is 82% signed by area, not 83% as in the staff report. There are still 79 total signing the petition of interest.

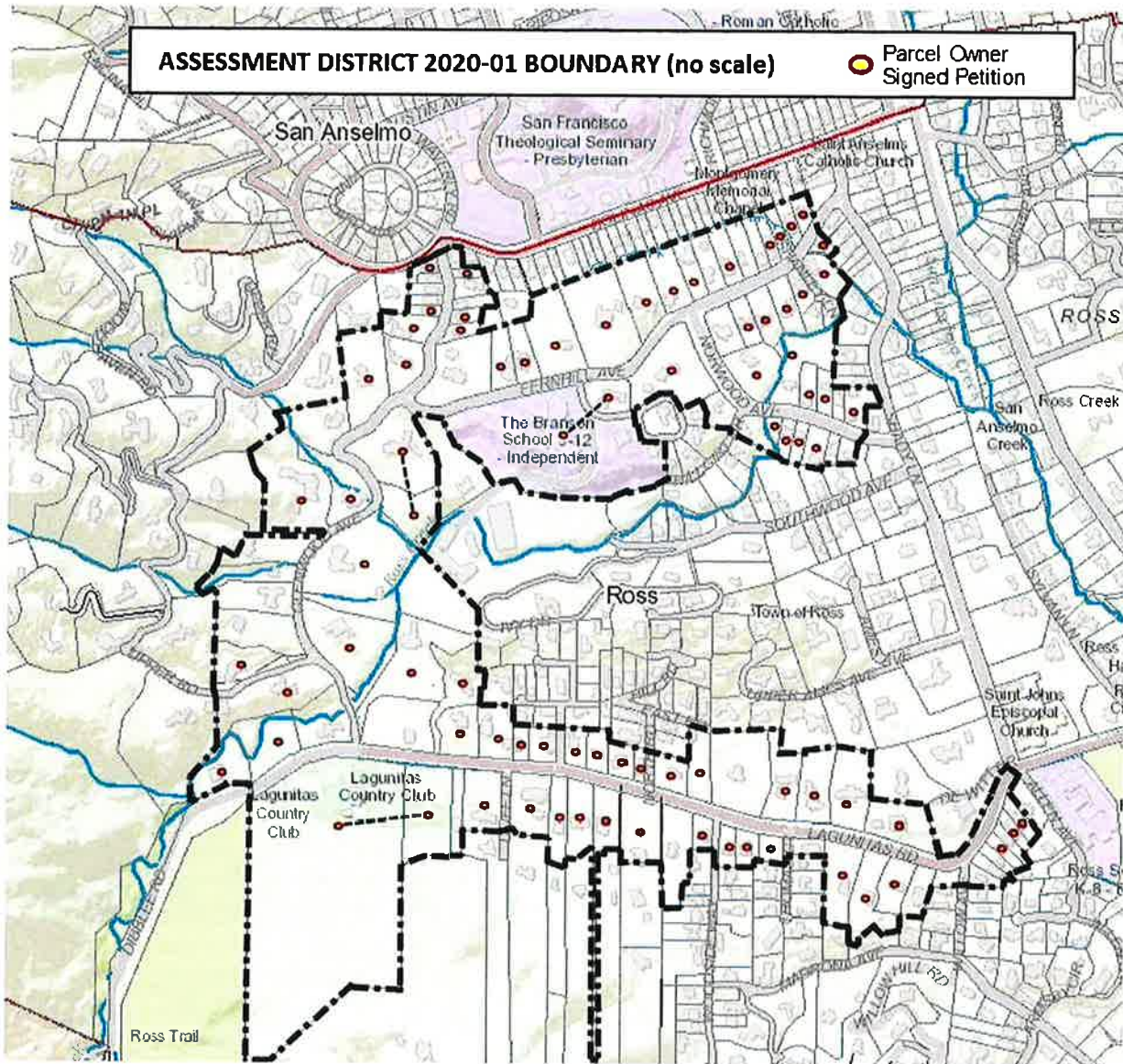
Attachments

1. Amended Draft Assessment District No. 2020-01 Boundary exhibit
2. Amended Draft Assessment District Parcel List
3. Correspondence received as of 3:30 P.M. June 16, 2020

ATTACHMENT 1

ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 2020-01 BOUNDARY (no scale)

 Parcel Owner
Signed Petition



ATTACHMENT 2

ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 2020-01 PARCEL LIST

Prop_ID	Signed Petition	Gross Land SqFt	SitusFormattedCity
073-241-16	N	8500	111 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-241-07	Y	11400	103 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-241-06	Y	7650	105 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-241-05	N	8500	107 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-241-04	Y	8250	109 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-241-02	N	8500	115 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-241-01	N	10500	39 WILLOW AVE ROSS
073-232-44	Y	49132	147 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-232-39	N	24200	125 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-232-34	Y	14000	171 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-232-21	N	9000	121 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-232-20	Y	14250	123 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-232-17	Y	48600	153 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-232-16	N	9555	161 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-232-08	Y	14375	163 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-232-05	Y	13500	1 WOODSIDE WAY ROSS
073-231-17	N	45500	179 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-231-02	Y	11008	177 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-222-03	Y	37407	193 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-222-02	Y	28387	195 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-222-01	Y	41250	199 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-221-07	Y	42579	201 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-221-02	N	18800	203 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS

073-221-01	Y vacant	55757	205 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-211-40	Y	717433	205 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-211-38	Y	44431	189 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-211-20	Y	50000	185 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-201-13	Y	61400	140 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-201-11	Y	47400	120 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-201-08	Y	40300	150 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-201-07	Y	42000	160 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-201-06	N	82500	170 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-173-02	Y	22040	2 NORTH RD ROSS
073-173-01	Y	25029	12 EAST RD ROSS
073-171-56	Y	16500	186 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-171-38	Y	16245	188 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-171-37	Y	8646	194 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-171-30	Y	7500	1 NORTH RD ROSS
073-171-25	Y	14260	190 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-171-14	Y	16320	192 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-171-11	Y	32535	196 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-151-16	N	8880	3 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-151-15	N	6500	5 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-151-14	Y	16758	7 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-151-13	Y	9360	9 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-151-12	Y	11628	11 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-151-11	Y	6004	15 NORWOOD AVE ROSS

073-151-10	N	17550	17 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-131-30	Y	219660	36 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-131-29	Y	103804	2 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-131-28	N	60853	200 1/2 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-131-23	Y	44431	200 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-131-17	Y	86350	20 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-131-01	Y	31248	198 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-122-22	Y	56335	206 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-122-21	Y	75924	1 UPPER RD ROSS
073-122-08	N	43400	202 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-122-03	Y	46021	210 LAGUNITAS RD ROSS
073-121-10	Y	43566	2 UPPER RD ROSS
073-121-09	N	62300	21 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-121-07	N	40592	23 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-091-47	Y	54630	12 A NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-091-46	Y	14881	10 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-091-40	Y	19800	4 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-091-39	Y	15000	8 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-091-37	N	27502	21 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-091-36	Y	17120	15 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-091-31	Y	18000	1 SHANLEY LN ROSS
073-091-30	Y	50220	14 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-091-26	N	6854	6 NORWOOD AVE ROSS
073-091-10	Y	8800	3 FERNHILL AVE ROSS

073-091-07	N	9240	7 SHANLEY LANE ROSS
073-091-06	N	9240	6 SHANLEY LANE ROSS
073-091-05	Y	11690	2 SHANLEY LN ROSS
073-091-04	Y	26265	5 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-091-03	Y	22050	11 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-082-12	Y	293159	39 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-082-03	N	15000	2 HILLGIRT DR ROSS
073-082-02	Y	84600	11 CIRCLE DR ROSS
073-082-01	Y vacant	28946	
073-072-07	Y vacant	51800	
073-072-06	Y	88775	81 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-071-12	Y	43566	55 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-071-11	Y	102800	51 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-071-06	N	36400	41 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-071-05	N	43560	49 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-051-21	N	20800	18 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-051-20	Y	20400	14 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-051-19	N	19344	12 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-051-18	N	12200	10 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-051-17	Y	11750	8 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-051-16	Y	13200	6 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-051-15	Y	14580	4 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-051-14	Y	11172	2 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-041-37	Y	98952	38 FERNHILL AVE ROSS

073-041-36	Y	43039	36 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-041-35	Y	37386	34 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-041-33	Y	4864	92 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-041-32	N	10366	90 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-041-31	withdrew	10545	88 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-041-30	Y	8400	86 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-041-29	Y	8940	84 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-041-28	N	66528	98 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-041-27	Y	25200	44 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-041-26	Y	20046	42 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-041-25	Y	64320	40 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-041-23	Y	21120	32 FERNHILL AVE ROSS
073-041-01	N	6014	141 BOLINAS AVE ROSS
073-031-13	Y	68620	61 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-031-12	N	41128	57 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-031-10	Y	32088	81 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-031-09	Y	25134	85 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-031-08	Y	6750	87 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-031-07	N	7110	89 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-031-06	N	8000	91 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-031-05	N	5600	93 GLENWOOD AVE ROSS
073-031-04	y	8520	201 BOLINAS AVE ROSS

ATTACHMENT 3

November 14, 2019

Mayor Brekhus
Ross Town Council
P.O. Box 320
Ross, CA 94957

RE: REMOVAL OF PROPERTIES FROM UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT #1

Dear Mayor Brekhus and Council Members,

It is with regret that we, the undersigned, are submitting this letter to the Mayor and Town Council. While we believe that the best of intentions have been the primary drivers for developing a policy for underground utility district formation and forming the first underground utility district in the Town of Ross, the policy and district are significantly flawed and, if implemented, will create an unfair and potentially illegal outcome. Due process has not been followed. Costs and adverse consequences to property owners, statements made and steps not followed by the Town, steps taken by proponents, and potential violations of law and protocol, as illustrated below, underscore the lack of due process and fairness. Therefore, we, the undersigned, demand that our contiguous properties be removed from Underground District #1 in the Town of Ross immediately.

Exorbitant Costs to Property Owners

WHEREAS, the abundant costs and risks associated with an underground utility district (e.g., upfront soft costs, construction costs, connections to a transformer, installation costs for waterproof conduit boxes, lateral costs, other costs), are not disclosed in detail in the draft policy under development, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), or petition,

WHEREAS, the estimated costs of laterals to connect to underground wiring for a property owner, exclusive of a property owner's share of assessed underground wiring costs, can be as much as \$198,984 based on estimates from PG&E, Linscott Engineering, and Integrity Electric,

Potential for Collateral Damage and Intangible Impacts on Property Owners

WHEREAS, no arborists have been consulted, and there are no studies that have been conducted, evidence provided, or documentation furnished by the Town of Ross or underground utility district proponents about the impact (e.g., root damage, removal) that undergrounding wires may have on heritage trees, the number one reason in the latest Town of Ross survey for why people move into our town,

WHEREAS, residents of Glenwood Avenue have endured years of jackhammering, noise pollution, and disruption in 16 of the last 21 years with back-to-back home construction projects,

Lack of an Approved or Complete Policy (and Unknown Costs to Property Owners)

WHEREAS, an underground utility district formation policy in its entirety has not been formally approved by the Ross Town Council, as evidenced on the Town audio transcript from the August 8, 2019 Town Council meeting, when the Ross Town Council directed a work group to revise the policy under

development when Julie McMillan stated: "I like Rupert's suggestion of having Kris (Kelley) and Stephanie (DiMarco) work with Bob (Dickinson) and Ken (Fineman), and anybody else ("work group"), to come up with a revised policy), yet efforts are already underway by proponents of Underground Utility District #1,

WHEREAS, since requesting *answers* to questions about the underground utility district formation policy sent in an email to the Town Council and Staff on August 28, 2019, and the response received on September 25, 2019 contains unanswered questions and as of yet unmade decisions (e.g., "We cannot answer for Council") *that directly affect the upfront, out-of-pocket costs to an individual property owner*, including:

E.g., Whether to allow for utility poles and above-ground wiring for laterals. The written response dated September 25, 2019 by Town Staff to a question about above-ground lateral poles would require "a revision to our utility undergrounding ordinance (RMC 15.28)," but RMC 15.28 only applies to emergency situations directed by the Town, *not* underground utility districts),

E.g., How ITCC taxes and costs apply to individual property owners' lateral costs (i.e., the Town states in its September 25, 2019 response that "Laterals are not considered part of the improvements provided by PG&E and fall out of the definition of being taxable by ITCC," and yet PG&E and Linscott Engineering state that "At a minimum, PG&E will be required to complete an inspection of each lateral at a cost of two-thousand to three-thousand dollars"),

E.g., The Town states in its September 25, 2019 response to questions that "*remaining* soft costs within the public streets *can be* financed by the assessment district," which is not conclusive (i.e., which is it?),

E.g., Work group members were told verbally by Town Staff on August 28, 2019 at the first work group meeting that environmental impact statements and reports would *not* be required, but a written response to the same question by Town Staff on September 25, 2019 states: "Construction related alterations to stream banks and channels will require regulatory approval just like any construction project," and

E.g., At the work group meeting on October 8, 2019, Town staff informed participants that a property owner would have to bring forward questions, like the ones above, to the Town Council for a decision later in the process,

Misrepresentations and Conflicting Statements by the Town and UUD Proponents

WHEREAS, California 1451, Section 11, Paragraph 9037 and Elections Code 18660 and 18661 state that a person, including public officials, who make false certifications or engage in misrepresentation concerning any such initiative are subject to criminal penalties and civil action,

WHEREAS, a proponent of Underground Utility District #1 represented on June 21, 2019 that "Everyone has to make their own choice," and Town Staff affirmed on September 25, 2019 in a written response to a question about this statement that "Yes, this is true," but the policy under development *does not allow for that*,

WHEREAS, at the August 8, 2019 Ross Town Council meeting, the Council Members and Town Staff referred to the latest red-lined version of the Underground Utility District policy under development, which was not made available to members of the public either in advance of the meeting or at the meeting, in violation of the Brown Act,

WHEREAS, in an August 9, 2019 email distributed by Town Staff that stated that the attachment was "the Underground Utility District draft policy document that incorporates the red-lined changes staff discussed yesterday evening," but the document did not contain any red-lined edits, and a copy of the red-lined version was not received until September 12, 2019,

WHEREAS proponents of Underground Utility District #1 sent out a petition on August 28, 2019 at 12:28 p.m. *with Town Staff approval*, before a work group meeting to discuss the policy under development scheduled for 4:00 pm *that day*, in effect continuing the underground wiring process against the will of the Town Council articulated at the August 8, 2019 Town Council meeting,

WHEREAS, the petition circulated prematurely by proponents of Underground Utility District #1 *was not circulated to all property owners in the district*, only to property owners in favor of underground wiring in Underground Utility District #1, and there has been a general lack of transparency throughout the process,

WHEREAS, the process to incorporate edits to the policy under development involves spurious changes introduced by proponents of underground utility districts (e.g., changing the estimated costs per parcel), as evidenced in a working group meeting on August 28, 2019 without primary or secondary source documentation,

WHEREAS, the Town has represented—in writing—multiple versions and ranges of implications for amortizing costs and project duration in documentation, and sometimes *within the same document* (e.g., "amortization through assessments is 20 years," then "20-30 years;" timing "2-4 years," then "2-5 years", and now "2-7 years"), and yet a written response by Town Staff to the duration issue on September 25, 2019 stated that "PG&E has made it clear that they will not provide...timing estimates until their engineers have completed their design," and the Town Staff at an October 8, 2019 work group meeting refused to view these discrepancies as a conflict,

Rationale for Removal from Town of Ross Underground Utility District

WHEREAS, page 18 of the Town of Ross General Plan and page 1 of the Underground Utilities District policy under development "sets a goal of pursuing...underground utilities in Town neighborhoods if an investigation *shows resident financial support*," and by the Town's own language, a property owner in the Town of Ross not in support can terminate any such initiative involving his/her property,

WHEREAS, page 2 of the Underground Utilities District policy under development states that "neighbors particularly in small areas with *unanimous neighbor support* could work together" to underground utilities by working directly with utility companies--which is what the Town policy under development compels, by the Town's language, a property owner not in support can terminate any such initiative involving his/her property,

WHEREAS, the Ross Town Council is not following precedents in other municipalities (e.g., San Diego County Board of Supervisors who stipulated in policy J-17 entitled *Undergrounding of Existing Overhead Utility Facilities* that “all customers agree in writing to pay their fair share of conversion expenses for underground utility districts”) and property owners have not agreed in writing to pay because costs are not known,

WHEREAS, certain residents were never notified—in writing—that a Neighborhood Committee had been formed, that a Kick-off Meeting was scheduled, or that properties were being formally added to the Town of Ross Underground Utility District #1 upon its formation,

WHEREAS, the Town can gerrymander districts based on the Town’s policy under development which states on page 3 that after submission of an initial boundary map, “The Town will review this map and may suggest changes, as required to satisfy utility companies’ requirements and potentially requests of...property owners,”

Discrimination About Removal

WHEREAS, proponents of Underground Utility District #1 stated on June 21, 2019 that “Upper Road is not included in Underground Utility District #1 *because some neighbors did not want to be included in the project,*” and proponents and Town staff at a second work group meeting on October 8, 2019 stated that “[Underground Utility District #1] was too big so Upper Road was excluded”—both reasons of which are arbitrary and capricious,

WHEREAS, proponents of Underground Utility District #1 indicated on October 27, 2019 that “Circle Drive was excluded from Underground Utility district #1 *because residents did not want to be included in the project,*”

* * * * *

THEREFORE, we, the undersigned, demand that the Town Council remove our contiguous properties at 21, 23, and 41 Glenwood Avenue from Underground Utility District #1 in the Town of Ross immediately because the policy under development does not confer equal rights to those not wishing to pursue underground wiring, and due process based on the evidence above has clearly not been followed.



Kimberly Fullerton
21 Glenwood Avenue



Frank Doodha
23 Glenwood Avenue



Robert A. Dickinson
41 Glenwood Avenue

From: [Diane Rudden](#)
To: [CouncilAll](#); [Richard Simonitch](#)
Cc: familyrudden@gmail.com
Subject: Comments on Upcoming June 18 Matter Regarding Formation of Assessment District No. 2020-01 (West Ross Underground Utility District #1)
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:37:20 PM

Dear Council and Rich:

Our residence is just within the boundaries of the proposed underground utility district. We seriously question the net benefits of incurring \$10,000's of long term expense by each resident within the district for only a partial solution. The argument that undergrounding will materially reduce fire risk is in our opinion over blown. If fire protection is a major objective of undergrounding then we would be better served by a far more aggressive tree pruning and removal process. This would be far less costly and could be implemented in very short order. The Town of Ross already has far too many trees and the only way to protect the community is to thin the growth. If you look at historic photos of Ross, you will see we had extensive pasture land and much less foliage. Nature is telling us something. We urge the Council to reject the proposed resolution as not in the best interests of those in the proposed district nor the Town of Ross as a whole.

Rus and Diane Rudden
39 Willow Ave

NELSON R. LAMPERT, M.D.
P. O. BOX 244
ROSS, CA 94957

June 10, 2020

Mr. Rich Simonitch
P. O. Box 320
Ross, CA 94957

Re: Comment on town council meeting June 18

Dear Mr. Simonitch,

I am writing to comment on the recent communication I received regarding the Ross Town Council meeting on June 18, 2020, which will consider the formation of an assessment district to move electric power lines underground

I have been designated as a member of that proposed group although I feel that I should not be a member. My reasons are listed below.

I own a home and property (parcel #073-232-21) located at the corner of Lagunitas Rd. and Willow Ave. The proposed district would underground power lines along Lagunitas Rd. The apparent benefits of this project would be 1) safety from fires and 2) beautification of the neighborhood. A significant assessment would be charged to each member of the district.

My problem is this. I would receive no benefits in return for this assessment. None of my utilities are connected to Lagunitas Rd. lines. All of them (electric power, telephone and computer, water, gas and sewer) connect to main lines on Willow Ave. In fact, P G & E lists my address as "00 Willow Ave." The front of my house faces Willow Ave. If one sits in my living room or on my front porch, the view is that of electric lines running to the house from a telephone pole on Willow Ave. That would not change if the lines on Lagunitas Rd. were placed underground. The longest dimension of my property lines lies along Willow Ave. Should homeowners who live on corners be liable for assessments on both streets? Is this a form of double jeopardy?

I have informed members of the proposed group, both orally and by e-mail of these facts. They have not responded.

I feel that common fairness suggests that I should not be part of an assessment group project from which I would receive no benefits. Would you pass this letter on the members of the Ross Town Council. I would be pleased to talk with any or all of them. If the proposed district is approved, I hope that the council would do so with the condition that I be removed from membership in the district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nelson Lampert".

Nelson R. Lampert, M.D.

NRL/bhs

June 10, 2020

Dear Town of Ross,

After receiving from the Town of Ross, the notice regarding the meeting on June 18, 2020 about the proposal of the district boundary map and adoption of a resolution of intention for the formation of assessment district NO. 2020-21 (West Ross underground utility district #1) in Ross, I have some serious concerns!

1. Is this expensive evaluation by engineers and the project itself really necessary, or is it so that some homeowners won't have to look at some overhead power lines? That's a big price for aesthetics!

2. I realize it is being presented as much safer in case of a fire - but really - if there is a fire in wooded Ross, that is not going to save us. Actually, the tree trimming is very helpful, I think.

3. The inequality of the project and project's expensiveness is ridiculous! If it is an important project for the West side of Ross, it should be available to all of Ross and covered expense - Wise by the Town in a tax, instead of by individual homeowners. Also, why is PG+E not covering this expense, as it is their power district.

4. Please honestly communicate to each homeowner the HUE up to us we will each be responsible for if this project even goes as far as paying the engineers for estimates!

At this time, I feel there are many more important issues to be addressed in Rose, as we go forward in 2020.

Providing a project for some of Rose, and paid for by some of Rose, and leaving (to supposedly keep them safe) in some of Rose is truly negotiable. Please don't support this proposal at this time!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Connor
(202 Lagunitas Rd.)

From: Ken Catton
To: Richard Simonitch
Subject: Re: West Ross Underground Utility District
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 2:58:40 PM

Thanks for the information Richard. Based on what I know now, please consider me to be against being part of the district. Just on principle I feel there should be some subsidy, incentives or matching funds from the utility company or other agency for upgrading their system to make it safer, reducing their equipment wear/maintenance costs, future tree trimming costs, and liability exposure from fires that their equipment may cause. Some private contribution makes sense because homeowners will benefit from the better aesthetics and reduced hazard.

I'm sorry I don't know Paul Glover.

Thanks,
Ken

On Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 1:18 PM Richard Simonitch <rsimonitch@townofross.org> wrote:

Ken,

Yes. Our Policy requires that the vote be taken after the construction bids are received , but before the bid is awarded. So the costs at that point should be accurate.

Prior to that, the Assessment District Engineer will have provided a good but somewhat less accurate cost estimate to consider for each parcel assessment to give the property owners some idea of where things are headed. The Boundary can possibly change up to and just prior to the vote, but that would require at least another separate hearing.

The final, final, costs are known at the end of construction to account for change orders caused by unforeseen events.

Do you have a way to contact Paul Glover at 90 Glenwood? I left a message on his cell but he has not returned my call. This conversation would be beneficial to him as well.

Richard Simonitch

Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Town of Ross

P.O. Box 320

Ross, CA 94957

(415) 453-1453 ext. 115

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From: Ken Catton <kpcatton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:01 PM
To: Richard Simonitch <rsimonitch@townofross.org>
Subject: Re: West Ross Underground Utility District

Thanks for your response. At what point in the process will the actual costs be known...after the boundary is set but before a vote?

Ken

On Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 8:22 AM Richard Simonitch <rsimonitch@townofross.org> wrote:

Ken,

The Town is considering adjusting the boundary of the assessment district based on support or lack thereof at the end of Glenwood near Bolinas. We would prefer underground those first 3 poles coming up Glenwood from Bolinas but will consider leaving them in place if there is no support north of the pole at 86/87 Glenwood inclusive. I am waiting on another neighbor in your area who also signed both petitions.

Generally speaking, it is correct that the properties in the assessment district will have to pay for the pro-rated cost of removing the overhead lines and poles in front of their homes over a 20-30 year period (depending on the maturity period of bonds the Town ends up with).

Richard Simonitch

Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Town of Ross

P.O. Box 320

Ross, CA 94957

(415) 453-1453 ext. 115

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From: Ken Catton <kpcatton@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 3:51 PM

To: Richard Simonitch <rsimonitch@townofross.org>

Subject: Re: West Ross Underground Utility District

Hi Richard,

Thanks for reaching out. There have been conflicting conversations bouncing around about the expected costs.

I do agree that undergrounding the power is a better and safer upgrade for reducing fire hazard, etc. which led to my initial support.

I don't agree that providing a safer basic utility should be totally privately funded, which I'm told it will have to be, and led to me changing my mind.

Just to clarify, so I can give you an answer...are these petitions being used to determine the proposed boundary of the district?

Thanks,

Ken Catton

On Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 2:04 PM Richard Simonitch <rsimonitch@townofross.org> wrote:

Dear Ken,

On the 18th of this month the Town of Ross Town Council will be considering moving forward with the overhead utility undergrounding project. This is not the hearing where residents vote for or against the district, this is just the Council receiving the petition and giving or not giving permission to staff to start with the reporting and engineering, etc. You will receive additional notifications of this hearing.

I have your name down as one of the petitioners who supports the formation of the district, but I was also informed that you or someone at your address also signed a petition not to support the district. Either way, signing the petition does not obligate you in any way to vote for or against the district when the voting occurs several months/year from now when the final cost estimates are available and the ballot hearing is held.

That said, in order for the Town Clerk to certify the petitions and to make an informed decision on the proposed boundary of the district, I am asking for clarification on what your position is with regard to formation of the district.

Please let me know as soon as possible, and if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Richard Simonitch

Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Town of Ross

P.O. Box 320

Ross, CA 94957

(415) 453-1453 ext. 115

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Petition to opt out of District 1

You are in what has been designated as Underground District 1 in the Town of Ross. Proponents of the District are working with the Town of Ross to secure the ungrounding of low voltage wires that are currently on poles along our streets.


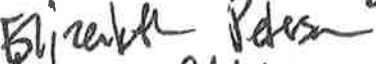




Approval of the project means you will pay for two activities:

1. PG&E updating its infrastructure to move wires underground
2. "Lateral" access from your parcel to the new underground wires

Total project costs, including the cost of "laterals" (underground PG&E to private electrical box(es) on parcel are unknown. Costs to each parcel, IN ADDITION to the main undergrounding of wires currently on poles, could include:

- Trenching
- Boring under driveways and/or sidewalks, home masonry, hardscape, etc
- Cost of materials for insulated underground lines meeting required building code specifications
- Upgraded breaker boxes and interior home electrical
- Permits issued by the Town of Ross
- Labor on a required project with a completion deadline defined by the Town of Ross
- Other unidentified costs yet to be identified as this project and the Underground Policies are not fully approved by the Town of Ross.

Given the information I have today, I would like my parcel EXCLUDED from District 1 as it is currently defined.

	Name	Signature	Street Address	Date
1	Kevin Buckholz		91 Glenwood	Nov 17
2	Elizabeth Peters		93 Glenwood	Nov 17
3	John McHugh		90 Glenwood	Nov 17
4			88 GLENWOOD	NOV. 17
5	Patricia M. Fields		87 Glenwood Dr	Nov 17
6	Pat Glen		82 Glenwood	Nov - 17
7				
8				
9				
10				