

**Council Meeting of
May 1, 2012**

PUBLIC HEARING

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Public Works – Conduct Public hearing, accept Engineer’s Report, and adopt RESOLUTION establishing Underground Utility Districts No. 19 and No. 20. Expenditure: None

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

1. Conduct a Public hearing to determine whether public necessity, health, safety or welfare requires the removal of poles, overhead wires, associated overhead structures and the underground installation of wires and facilities for supplying electric, communication or similar service in the Underground Utility Districts (UUD) No. 19 (Del Amo Boulevard from Henrietta Street to Victor Street) and No. 20 (Van Ness Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue);
2. Accept the Engineer’s Report; and
3. Adopt a **RESOLUTION** establishing Underground Utility Districts No. 19 and No. 20.

Funding

No funding required

BACKGROUND

On April 17, 2012, Your Honorable Body set 7:00 p.m. on May 1, 2012 as the time for the public hearing regarding the proposed UUD’s No. 19 and 20. Notices of the hearing were mailed to adjacent property owners, businesses, and utility companies of the proposed district. The notice was also published on April 21, 2012 in the Daily Breeze.

ANALYSIS

This project meets the established Public Utilities Commission guidelines for eligibility as an underground district. Those guidelines are as follows:

1. Each undergrounding will avoid or eliminate an unusually heavy concentration of overhead electric facilities;
2. A street, road or right-of-way which is used by the general public in carrying a heavy volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic; or,
3. A street, road or right-of-way adjoining or passing through one of the following:
 - a. Civic Center;
 - b. Public recreation area; and,
 - c. An area of unusually scenic interest.

The following reasons are also applicable to the choice of this district:

1. The project conforms with the emphasis by the City to underground along arterial roadways. Del Amo Boulevard is an arterial and carries an average traffic volume of 18,000 vehicles per day along the proposed segment. Van Ness Avenue is an arterial and carries an average traffic volume of 16,000 vehicles per day along the proposed segment.
2. The streets carry a heavy volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

No utility poles located outside the described UUD's No. 19 and 20 boundaries will be removed.

It is recommended the following exceptions (Section 77.1.14 of the Torrance Municipal Code) to the Underground Utility Districts No. 19 and 20 be authorized:

1. Any municipal facilities or equipment installed under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the Public Works Director;
2. Overhead wires (exclusive of supporting structures) crossing any portion of a District within which overhead wires have been prohibited, or connecting to buildings on the perimeter of a District, when such wires originate in an area from which poles, overhead wires and associated overhead structures are not prohibited;
3. Antennae, associated equipment and supporting structures, used by a utility for furnishing communication services;
4. Equipment appurtenant to underground facilities, such as surface-mounted transformers, pedestal-mounted terminal boxes and meter cabinets, vent pipes, and ducts; and,
5. Temporary poles, overhead wires and associated overhead structures used or to be used in conjunction with construction projects.

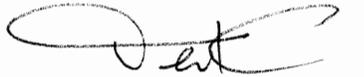
Underground Utility Districts (UUD) No. 19 and 20 consist of two separate locations:

- UUD No. 19 – Del Amo Boulevard from Henrietta Street to Victor Street. All overhead lines will be undergrounded and the poles will be removed.
- UUD No. 20 – Van Ness Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue. All overhead lines will be undergrounded and the poles will be removed.

The attached Engineer's Report contains the total cost estimate of \$177,300 for Districts, along with proposed construction schedule.

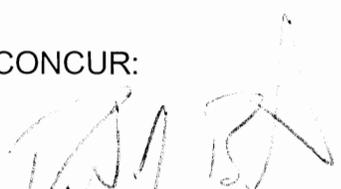
Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. BESTE
Public Works Director



By: Ted Semaan
Engineering Manager

CONCUR:



Robert J. Beste
Public Works Director



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

- Attachments:
- A. Resolution (UUD #19 & 20)
 - B. Location Map
 - C. City Council Item of April 17, 2012
 - D. Notice of Public Hearing
 - E. Proof of Publication
 - F. Engineer's Report
 - G. CEQA Exemption memo

RESOLUTION NO.**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ESTABLISHING THE UNDERGROUND UTILITY
DISTRICT NUMBERS 19 AND 20 AND ORDERING THE
REMOVAL OF POLES, OVERHEAD WIRES AND ASSOCIATED
OVERHEAD STRUCTURES WITHIN THE DESIGNATED AREA
AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 77.1.21 OF THE TORRANCE
MUNICIPAL CODE**

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2012 the City Council indicated its intention to designate Underground Utility District Number 19 (UUD #19) – Del Amo Boulevard from Henrietta Street to Victor Street, attached Figure 1 and Exhibit A provides the map and legal description of UUD #19 district boundary; and Underground Utility District Number 20 (UUD #20) – Van Ness Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue, attached Figure 2 and Exhibit B provides the map and legal description of UUD #20 district boundary.

WHEREAS, due and legal notice has been given to affected property owners; and

WHEREAS, due and legal notice has been given to the utility concerned; and

WHEREAS, due and legal hearings have been held, all in accordance with the provisions of Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Division 7 of the Torrance Municipal Code;

**NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF TORRANCE DOES
RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1

This City Council does hereby find and determine that the public necessity, health, safety or welfare requires the removal of poles, overhead wires and associated overhead structures within the area designated on the attached maps and legal descriptions as Underground Utility District Numbers 19 and 20 and requires the underground installation of wires, and facilities for supplying electric communication or similar associated service.

SECTION 2

This City Council does hereby declare the area designated on the maps and legal descriptions, which are attached to this Resolution and incorporated by this reference, entitled Underground Utility District Numbers 19 and 20, underground utility districts and order such removal of poles, overhead wires and associated overhead structures and the underground installation of wires and facilities for supplying electric, communication, cable television or similar or associated service in the Districts described above.

SECTION 3

This City Council does hereby declare that the removal and underground installation of existing overhead structures shall be accomplished by December 2012 and the affected property owners must be ready to receive underground service by December 2012.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2012

Frank Scotto, Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

Sue Herbers, City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN L. FELLOWS III, City Attorney

By: _____
Patrick Q. Sullivan, Assistant City Attorney

Attachments:

- Figure 1 – Map of Underground Utility District Number 19
- Exhibit A – Description of Underground Utility District Number 19
- Figure 2 – Map of Underground Utility District Number 20
- Exhibit B – Description of Underground Utility District Number 20

**CITY OF TORRANCE
PROPOSED UNDERGROUND DISTRICT NO. 19**

Del Amo Boulevard

The full width and length of the Del Amo Boulevard right-of-way, from the east side of the Henrietta Street right-of-way to the west side of the Victor Street right-of-way.

**CITY OF TORRANCE
PROPOSED UNDERGROUND DISTRICT NO. 20**

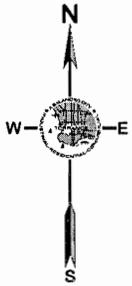
Van Ness Avenue

The full width and length of the Van Ness Avenue right-of-way, from the north side of the Torrance Boulevard right-of-way to the south side of the Cravens Avenue right-of-way.

CITY OF TORRANCE PROPOSED UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICTS LOCATION MAP

**PROPOSED UNDERGROUND
UTILITY DISTRICT #19**

**PROPOSED
UNDERGROUND
UTILITY DISTRICT #20**



NOT TO SCALE



Council Meeting of
April 17, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Public Works – Set hearing date for proposed Underground Utility District 19 – Del Amo Boulevard No. 20 – Van Ness Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council set a date of May 1, 2012 for a public hearing regarding proposed Underground Utility Districts No. 19 – Del Amo Boulevard from Henrietta Street to Victor Street and No. 20 – Van Ness Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue, and direct the staff to notify all property owners affected by the proposed district.

Funding

No funding required.

BACKGROUND

On April 3, 2012, Your Honorable Body approved and adopted Resolution 2012-35, amending and updating Resolution No. 2005-71 regarding the Utility Undergrounding Facilities Plan and Utility Undergrounding Impact Fees, which includes Del Amo Boulevard, between Henrietta Street and Victor Street, as well as Van Ness Avenue, between Torrance Boulevard and Cravens Avenue.

The City has a right to designate which locations of the City the Impact Fee funds are to be used. The City has adopted into the Municipal Code a procedure to follow in designating underground utility districts.

ANALYSIS

The south side of Del Amo between Henrietta and Victor streets contains overhead wiring on wooden poles that power the existing street lights and the traffic signals at Victor Street and Entradero Avenue. The west side of Van Ness between Torrance and Cravens contains overhead wiring on wooden poles that energize the street lights and the traffic signal at Torrance Boulevard. Staff and Southern California Edison (SCE) have been coordinating the design and installation of the underground

electrical system by the City and Edison's removal of the wooden poles and overhead wiring.

A companion item on tonight's agenda awards the construction of the City's underground conduits and cables, the installation of new underground serviced marbelite street light poles and service to the impacted traffic signals.

Should the City Council adopt the recommendation, the Public Works Director will transmit an "Engineer's Report" to the City Council at the time of the hearing. The report will describe the boundaries of the district, the work to be undertaken, the extent of participation of the affected utility companies, estimated total costs to the City and any additional information required.

In conformance with Section 20 of Article 1, Chapter 7, Division 7 of the Torrance Municipal Code, the City Council must now set a time and date for a public hearing to ascertain whether or not public necessity, health, safety or welfare requires the removal of poles, overhead wires and associated overhead structures within the proposed underground utility district and the underground installation of wires and facilities for supplying electric communication or similar or associated service. Establishment of the Underground Utility District will prohibit future installation of overhead facilities within the District.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. BESTE
Public Works Director



By: Ted Semaan
Engineering Manager

CONCUR:



Robert J. Beste
Public Works Director



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Note: This public hearing is the first of a series pertaining to the creation of underground utilities districts to areas already underground.

Attachments: A. Location Map
B. Existing Underground Utility Districts Map

CITY OF TORRANCE PROPOSED UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICTS LOCATION MAP

**PROPOSED UNDERGROUND
UTILITY DISTRICT #19**

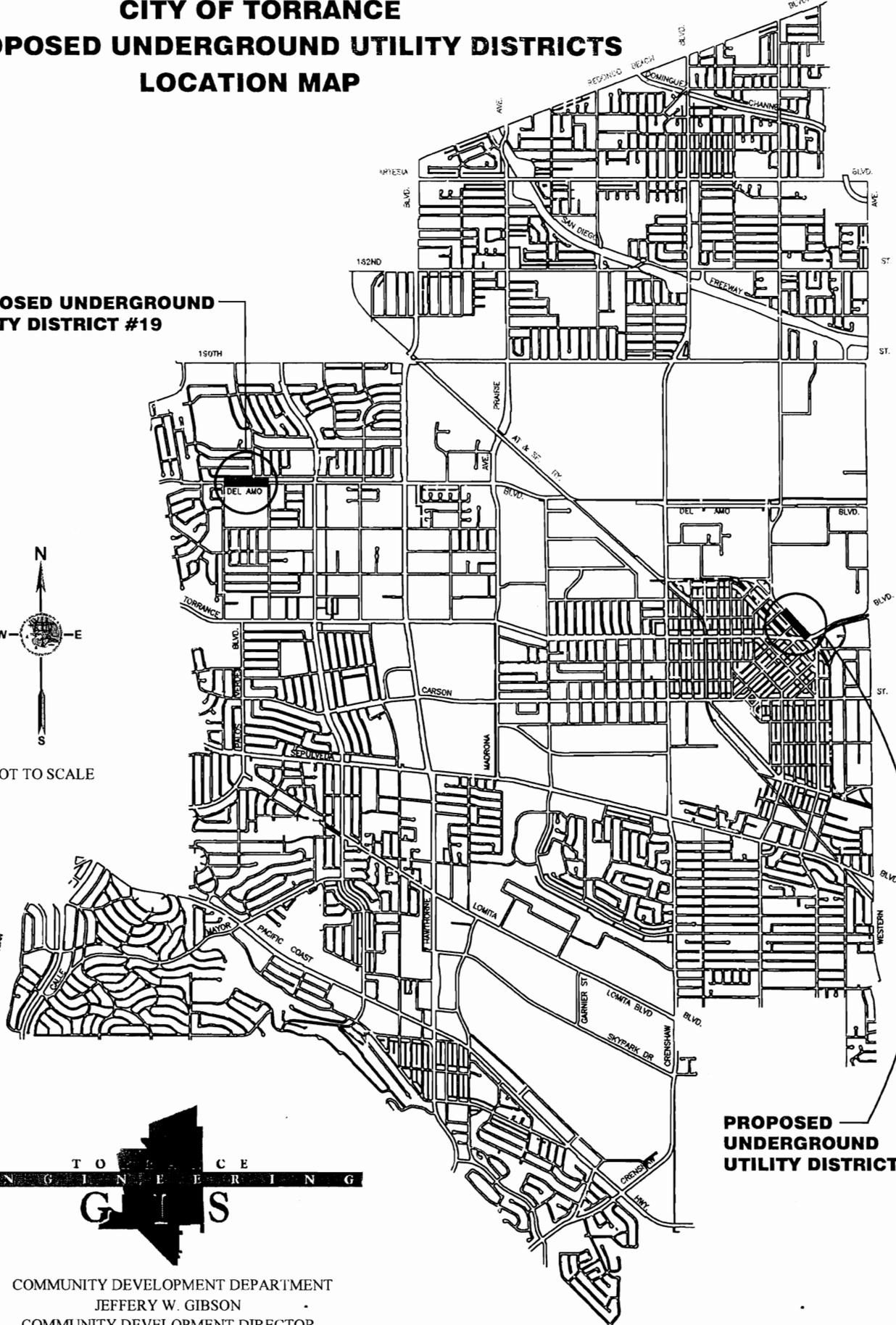


NOT TO SCALE



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
JEFFERY W. GIBSON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

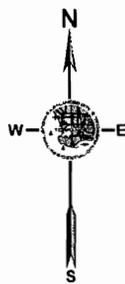
**PROPOSED
UNDERGROUND
UTILITY DISTRICT #20**



CITY OF TORRANCE PROPOSED UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT LOCATION MAP

LEGEND:

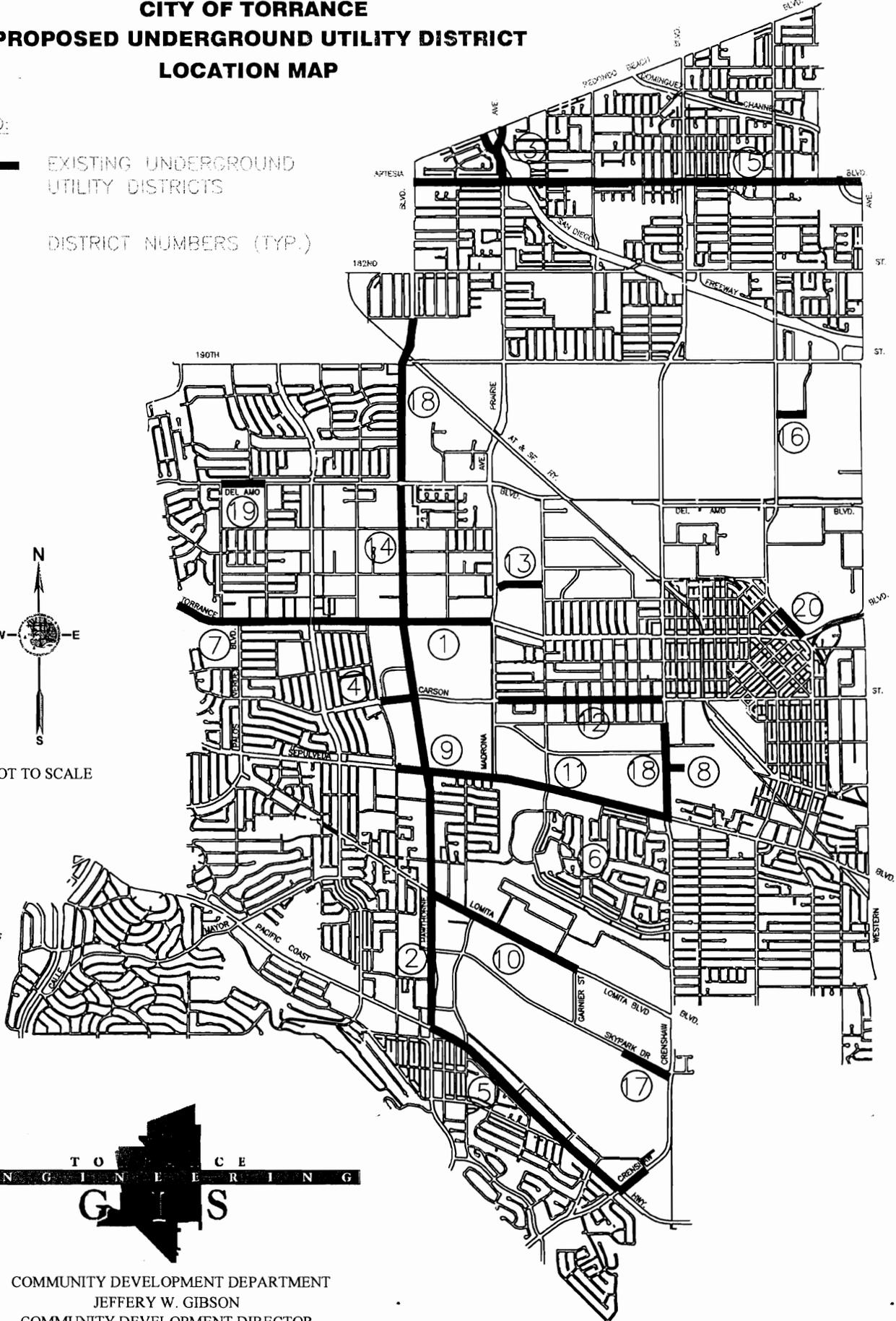
-  EXISTING UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICTS
-  DISTRICT NUMBERS (TYP.)



NOT TO SCALE



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
JEFFERY W. GIBSON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



ESTABLISHMENT OF UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICTS NO. 19 AND 20



CITY OF TORRANCE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

City Council Meeting

May 1, 2012, 7 p.m.

City Council Chambers

3031 Torrance Boulevard

The City of Torrance invites you to attend a public hearing to determine whether the public's necessity, health, safety or welfare requires the removal of poles, overhead wires, associated overhead structures, and the underground installation of wires and facilities for supplying electric, communication, or similar service within the designated areas. The investigation does not identify aerial feeds to local residences. The hearing will take place during a regularly scheduled City Council Meeting.

On April 17, 2012, the City Council set a Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 1, 2012 regarding the proposed Underground Utility District No. 19 and 20: (No. 19 - Del Amo from Victor Street to Henrietta Street; and No. 20 - Van Ness Boulevard from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue). If established, future installation of overhead utility facilities, i.e. electrical and communication will be prohibited within the district.

If you would like to convey your views on this matter, you may send correspondence to Ted Semaan, Engineering Manager of the Public Works Department (20500 Madrona Avenue) or you may e-mail your comments to PWTraffic@TorranceCA.Gov and they will become part of the official record.

For questions or more information, please contact the following:

Public Works Department

Traffic Engineering—310-781-6900

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

20500 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503
www.TorranceCA.Gov

CITY COUNCIL

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Dana Cortez	City Treasurer

LeRoy J. Jackson	City Manager
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Distribution Date: April 23, 2012

Daily Breeze

21250 HAWTHORNE BLVE, STE 170 * TORRANCE CALIFORNIA 90503-4077

Direct: (310) 543-6635 Fax: (310) 316-6827

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(201 5.5 C.C.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Los Angeles,

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of the THE DAILY BREEZE

a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published _____

in the City of Torrance*
County of Los Angeles, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of County of Los Angeles, State of California, under the date of _____

June 10, 1974

Case Number SWC7146
that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement there of on the following dates, to-wit

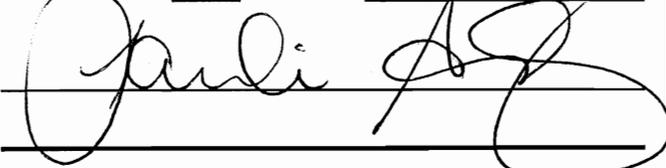
April 21,

all in the year 2012

the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Torrance

California, this 21 April 2012



*The Daily Breeze circulation includes the following cities:
Carson, Compton, Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Palos Verdes, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rancho Palos Verdes Estates, Redondo Beach, San Pedro, Santa Monica, Torrance and Wilmington

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

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DB 4-84

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the Torrance City Council at **7:00 p.m., May 1, 2012** in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 3031 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, California, on the following matter:

Consideration to establish **UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 19 & 20: No. 19 - Del Amo Boulevard from Henrietta Street to Victor Street; and No. 20 - Van Ness from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue.** If established, future installation of overhead utility facilities, i.e. electrical and communication will be prohibited within the district.

Material can be reviewed in the Public Works Department. All persons interested in the above matter are requested to be present at the hearing or to submit their comments to the City Clerk, City Hall, 3031 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90503, prior to the public hearing.

If you challenge the above matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Public Works Department or the office of the City Clerk prior to the public hearing, and further, by the terms of Resolution No. 88-19, you may be limited to ninety (90) days in which to commence such legal action pursuant to Section 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Public Works Department at (310) 781-6900. If you need a special hearing device to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 618-2870. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

For further information, contact the **ENGINEERING DIVISION** of the Public Works Department at (310) 781-6900.

**SUE HERBERS
CITY CLERK**

Published: April 21, 2012

UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICTS (UUD) NO. 19 & 20

**UUD No. 19 – DEL AMO BOULEVARD
HENRIETTA STREET TO VICTOR STREET**

**UUD No. 20 – VAN NESS AVENUE
TORRANCE BOULEVARD TO CRAVENS AVENUE**

**ENGINEER'S REPORT
April 19, 2012**



**Toufic (Ted) Semaan, P.E., T.E.
Engineering Manager**

UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICTS (UUD) NO. 19 & 20

UUD No. 19 – DEL AMO BOULEVARD HENRIETTA STREET TO VICTOR STREET

UUD No. 20 – VAN NESS AVENUE TORRANCE BOULEVARD TO CRAVENS AVENUE

ENGINEER'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Engineer's report provides detailed information about the proposed district including its purpose, boundaries, scope of work, cost estimates to establish the district, costs to affected properties and duration of the conversion of the overhead facilities to an underground system.

PURPOSE OF THE UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICTS

The purpose of the UUD No. 19 is to create uniformity along the section of Del Amo Boulevard from Henrietta Street to Victor Street by removing all existing poles; overhead wires, associated overhead facilities along the south side of Del Amo Boulevard and replacing them with underground wires and facilities for supplying electric, communication, and similar service. There are existing underground serviced marbelite street lights and no overhead utilities along the north side of this segment of Del Amo Boulevard. Establishment of the District will prohibit future installation of overhead facilities within the designated area.

Similarly, the purpose of the UUD No. 20 is to create uniformity along the section of Van Ness Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue by removing all existing poles; overhead wires, associated overhead facilities along the west side of Van Ness Avenue and replacing them with underground wires and facilities for supplying electric, communication, and similar service. There are existing underground serviced marbelite street lights and no overhead utilities along the east side of this segment of Van Ness Avenue. Establishment of the District will prohibit future installation of overhead facilities within the designated area.

LOCATION & BOUNDARIES

Underground Utility District No. 19 (UUD #19) comprises of the public right-of-way of Del Amo Boulevard from the easterly side of Henrietta Street to the westerly side of Victor Street. Attached **Figure 1** and **Exhibit A** provide the map and legal description of this district boundary.

Underground Utility District No. 20 (UUD #2) comprises of the public right-of-way of Van Ness Avenue from the northerly side of Torrance Boulevard to the southerly side of Cravens Avenue. Attached **Figure 2** and **Exhibit B** provide the map and legal description of this district boundary.

UTILITIES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

The proposed District No. 19 will underground overhead lines and remove the poles along the south side of Del Amo Boulevard from Henrietta Street to Victor Street. The existing overhead SCE lines provide service to the street lights along with the traffic signals at Victor and Del Amo as well as Entradero and Del Amo. The proposed underground work will provide underground infrastructure to accommodate the traffic signals and street lights.

The proposed District No. 20 will underground overhead lines and remove the poles along the west side of Van Ness Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue. The existing overhead SCE lines provide service to the street lights along with the traffic signals at Van Ness and Torrance. The proposed underground work will provide underground infrastructure to accommodate the traffic signal and street lights.

If these districts are established, future installation of overhead utility facilities, i.e. electrical and communication will be prohibited within the districts.

Any existing cable and telephone services will be required to underground their existing facilities within the district at their expense.

COST ESTIMATE AND FINANCING

The cost estimate of Districts 19 and 20 to replace the existing overhead lines and installation of the underground distribution facilities is \$ 177,300. However, the final cost for this work will reflect the actual cost of undergrounding work. This amount is made available from monies accrued by Development Impact Fees for Undergrounding Utilities. Presently the DIF Undergrounding fund has a balance of \$408,525, which includes the appropriated cost above for these improvements.

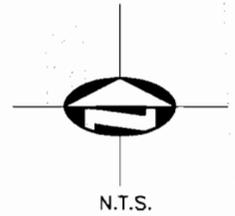
CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Your Honorable Body approved the construction contract to install the underground infrastructure, street light poles and signal services on April 17, 2012. The City contractor has until June 30, 2012 to complete the installation of the new underground serviced street lighting systems and traffic signal service connections work. Staff has been coordinating with Southern California Edison (SCE) Company to remove the existing overhead utility lines and poles upon completion of the City's contractor's work. Construction and removal by SCE will take approximately two (2) months after completion of improvements by the City's contractor.

Attachments:

- Figure 1 Underground Utility District No. 19 map
- Exhibit A Legal Description
- Figure 2 Underground Utility District No. 20 map
- Exhibit B Legal Description

FIGURE 1



DEL AMO BLVD.

**Proposed Underground
Utility District 19**

VICTOR ST.

HENRIETTA ST.

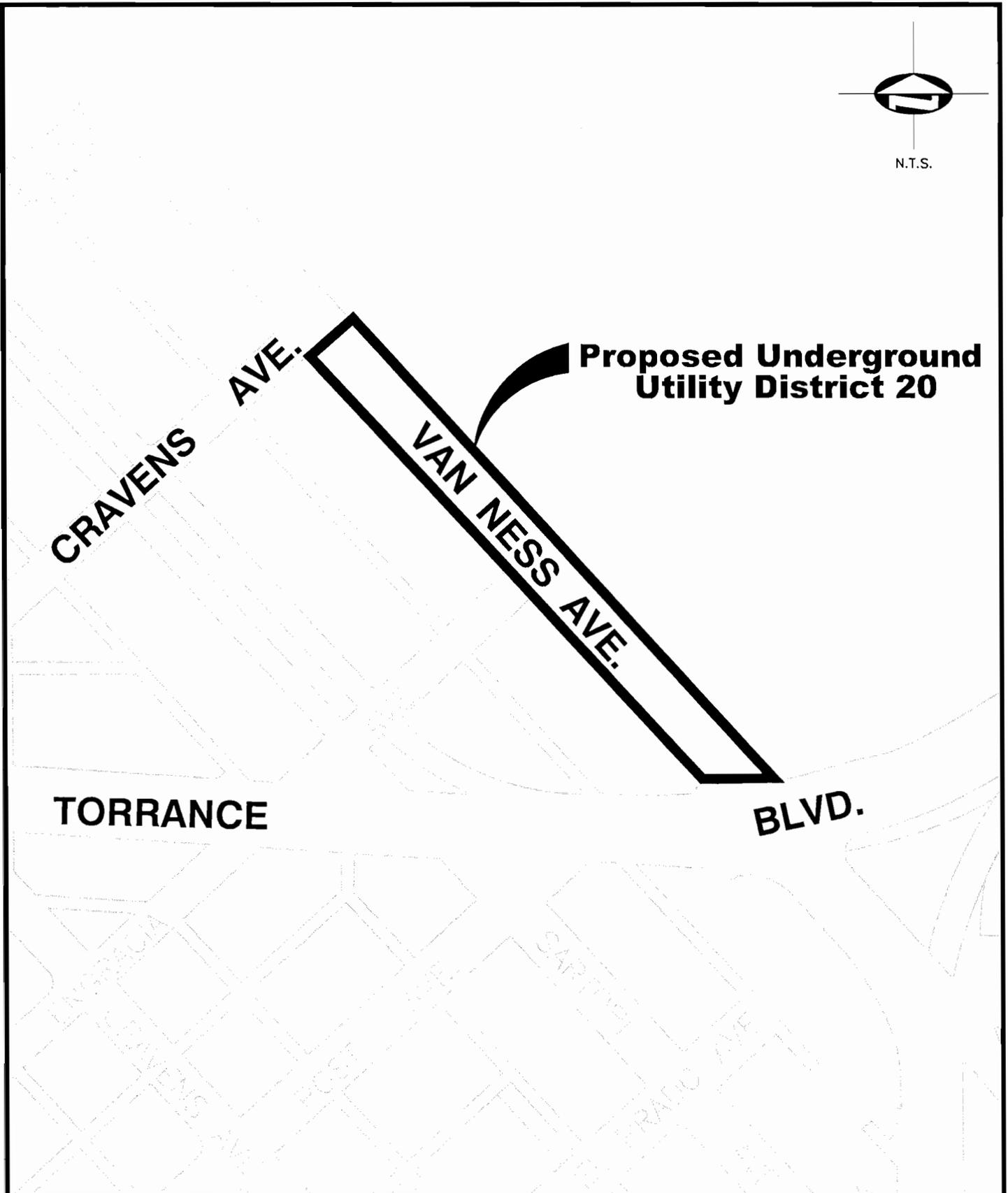
**City of Torrance
Proposed Underground Utility District No. 19
Del Amo Blvd. From Henrietta St. to Victor St.**

**CITY OF TORRANCE
PROPOSED UNDERGROUND DISTRICT NO. 19**

Del Amo Boulevard

The full width and length of the Del Amo Boulevard right-of-way, from the east side of the Henrietta Street right-of-way to the west side of the Victor Street right-of-way.

FIGURE 2



**City of Torrance
Proposed Underground Utility District No. 20
Van Ness Ave. From Torrance Blvd. to Cravens Ave.**

**CITY OF TORRANCE
PROPOSED UNDERGROUND DISTRICT NO. 20**

Van Ness Avenue

The full width and length of the Van Ness Avenue right-of-way, from the north side of the Torrance Boulevard right-of-way to the south side of the Cravens Avenue right-of-way.

CITY OF TORRANCE

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: April 19, 2012

TO: Ted Semaan, Engineering Manager
FROM: Gregg D. Lodan, Planning and Environmental Manager
SUBJECT: Undergrounding Utility Districts No. 19 & 20

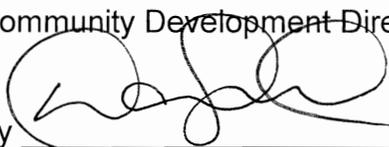
This memo is in response to your request dated April 19, 2012, regarding the undergrounding of Public Utilities in District No's. 19 and 20.

- 19 - Del Amo Boulevard from Henrietta Street to Victor Street; and
- 20 - Van Ness Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue

As described, this is a conversion of overhead electric utility distribution facilities to underground, including connection to existing overhead electric utility distribution lines where the surface is restored to the condition existing prior to the undergrounding. As such, we determine that the subject proposal is Categorical Exempt by Article 19, section 15302 (d) of the California Environmental Quality Act.

If you should have any further questions, please contact Danny Santana of the Development Review Division at 310-618-5990.

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

By 
For: Gregg D. Lodan
Planning and
Environmental Manager

Attachment:: Memo from Engineering Manager dated April 19, 2012

CITY OF TORRANCE

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: April 19, 2012

TO: Gregg D. Lodan, Planning Manager
FROM: Ted Semaan, Engineering Manager
SUBJECT: Undergrounding Utility Districts No. 19 & 20

This project, Undergrounding Utility Districts No. 19 and 20, will underground the utilities along:
19 – Del Amo Boulevard from Henrietta Street to Victor Street; and
20 – Van Ness Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue.

We would like to request that your office determine if this project qualifies as Categorical Exempt per CEQA guidelines. It is anticipated that construction will commence this Spring of 2012.

If you have any further questions or need more information, please call me at extension 3073.



Ted Semaan
Engineering Manager