

KENSINGTON AND UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING

OR

WHAT STEPS GOT US TO THIS POINT

1. Utility Undergrounding took place in Talmadge over approximately an eleven year period. Through that process many residents became upset with lack of utility/city communication and the number and locations of utility above-ground installations.
2. Beginning in 2010, many Kensington residents expressed concern about moving forward with utility undergrounding unless they could eliminate above-ground equipment or at least have significant input into the process and installation decisions.
3. In response to those concerns KTPG asked the City to put utility undergrounding in Kensington “On Hold” until residents were satisfied. The City agreed to place Kensington districts 3CC, 3CC1 and 3CC2 on hold.
4. In 2012, the KTPG and other San Diego Planning Groups requested formation of Utility Undergrounding Task Force to develop municipal codes and guidelines to ensure better installations and community input into the process. That effort failed.
5. In 2014, the City formed a more limited Undergrounding Advisory Committee to work with Utility Companies and City Staff on non-binding procedures.
6. Utility Companies participated in that effort and did indicate more willingness to work with communities and to consider easements to improve installations. They did not agree to put any transformers or other communication equipment underground. The final Committee report was issued in March 2015.
7. In 2015, the City Staff decided to freeze activation of projects until a New Utility Undergrounding Master Plan was developed. In 2016, City Staff put the development of a New Master Plan on hold. Very recently staff has indicated that the Master Plan is again under consideration.
8. City Staff met with KTPG representatives to discuss possible utility undergrounding in some Kensington neighborhoods, if those neighborhoods offer little opposition to moving forward. Based on Kensington’s history in the process, options were discussed that in some cases could adjust undergrounding timelines.
9. This Community Undergrounding Workshop scheduled for April 30, 2016 at Kensington Community Church is to share these proposals and receive community input.
10. The KTPG will consider supporting or opposing these proposals at their May 11, 2016 Board meeting.