



Kensington Utilities Underground Project

Presentation to the Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group
June 9, 2010



Undergrounding Wires Makes Sense!

- **Safety First – Overhead Wires Are Dangerous**
- **Undergrounding Provides All New Infrastructure**
- **Aesthetics – Wires and Poles Are Really Ugly!**
- **Testimonials from Talmadge Neighbors**
- **We've Already Paid For It.**
- **Where Do We Go From Here?**



Safety First – Overhead Wires Are a Danger

WILDFIRE TODAY *News and commentary about wildland fire*



San Diego power company agrees to pay \$14.8 million for wildfires

Friday, April 23rd, 2010

Law firm recruits clients to sue power company and children's camp for causing fire

Wednesday, March 24th, 2010

Stronger regulation urged in Australia to prevent fires caused by power lines

Tuesday, December 15th, 2009

Downed power line kills over a dozen animals

Tuesday, November 3rd, 2009

<http://kensingtonunderground.com>



Safety First – Overhead Wires Are a Danger

SIGNON
SAN DIEGO

Mira Mesa brush fire extinguished

Sunday, May 30, 2010 at 2:09 p.m.

MIRA MESA — A fire in a Mira Mesa canyon started by a hawk that hit power lines briefly threatened some homes and blackened three acres Sunday.

The fire was reported just before 11 a.m. on Backer Road near Heffner Lane on the north side of Carroll Canyon, a dispatcher with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department said. Five homes at the top of the canyon were evacuated as a precaution, said fire department spokesman Maurice Luque.

Several crews as well as Copter 1 responded to the blaze which burned in some brush in a canyon behind homes.

The flames were extinguished just after noon, said Luque.



A pole in the canyon at 4372 Argos Dr. that last March experienced an electric discharge so long and so intense that a neighbor across the canyon called the San Diego Fire Department.

Fortunately this did not occur during fire season.

<http://kensingtonunderground.com>



Undergrounding Provides All New Infrastructure

- **New Electrical Lines (Underground) and Transformers**
- **New Telephone Lines**
- **New Cable / Broadband**
 - **The US lags behind other developed nations in the speed of Broadband access**
- **New Electrical Service to Street Lamps**
 - **Some of the wiring to street lamps dates to the 1920's and 1930's**



Wires and Poles Are Really Ugly!

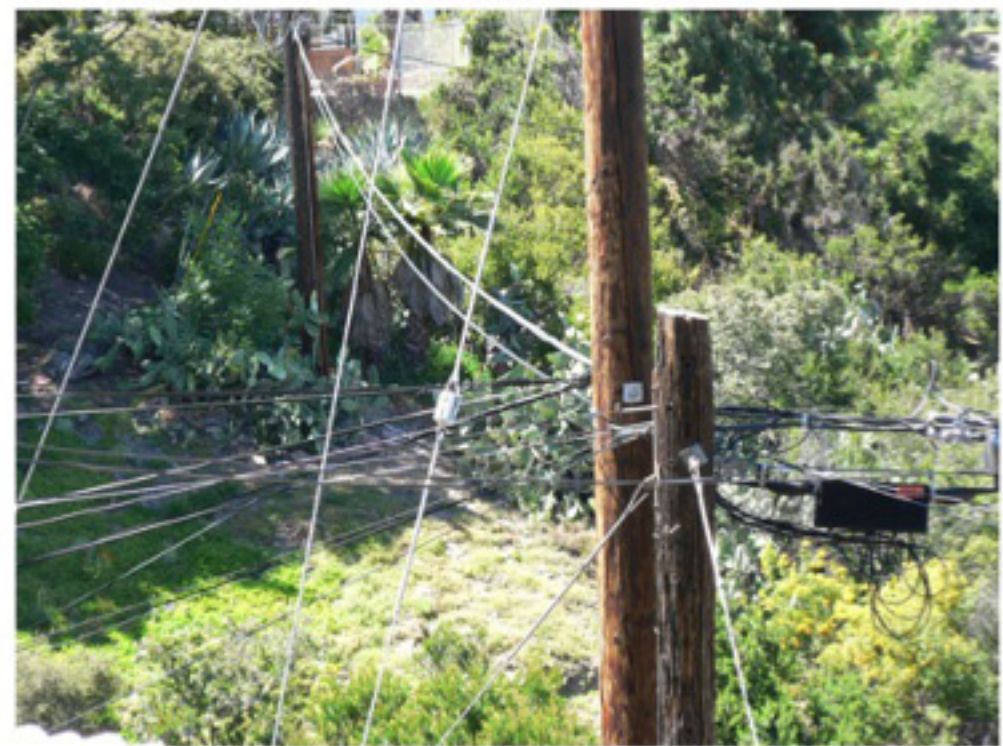


Alder and Marlborough – Kensington Community Church

<http://kensingtonunderground.com>



Wires and Poles Are Really Ugly!



Canyon View – 4300 Block of Argos Dr.



Wires and Poles Are Really Ugly!



In some areas wires and poles run parallel to our streets and cross them with transformers overhead.



Wires and Poles Are Really Ugly!



- **Wires and poles run behind houses that are not on canyons.**
- **SDG&E mutilates trees to allow wires to pass by them.**



Wires and Poles Are Uglier than Boxes!



Which do you prefer? Can you find the boxes?



Wires and Poles Are Uglier than Boxes!



Which do you prefer? Can you find the boxes?



Testimonials from Talmadge Neighbors

“Undergrounding – we love it! After 2 or 3 weeks you don’t even notice the boxes.”

“My TV reception is 100% better.”

“I think the boxes look better than the poles and all the wires coming to your house.”

“I really like not having to look at the wires.”

“This surpasses any and all improvements I have EVER seen in the community!”



Testimonials from Talmadge Neighbors

“It’s going to increase your property values. It’s like putting money in the bank.”

“We’ve already gotten rid of the power lines which go through the canyon, which is a constant worry because of the potential fire hazard.”

“The benefits far outweigh the temporary discomforts.”

“I don’t like the poles. I think it’s much nicer when they’re not there.”

“Can’t wait to get rid of the wires.”

“You should do it. It’s great!”



How Many Boxes Are Required?

This has been controversial, so we asked Nathan Bruner

- *A single phase transformer will serve around 10-14 homes.*
- *If the transformers are placed behind the sidewalk, no barrier posts are needed.*

-Nathan Bruner, Underground Program Manager (San Diego City)

This was confirmed by an SDG&E Engineer.

But ... the “proof is in the pudding.”

We surveyed two neighborhoods in La Jolla.

8500 Prestwick Drive

5500 Soledad Mountain Rd.



How Many Boxes Are Required?



8500 Prestwick Drive





How Many Boxes Are Required?



5500 Soledad Mountain Rd.

82 Houses / 7 Electrical Boxes = 11.7 Houses/Electrical Box

<http://kensingtonunderground.com>



We've Already Paid For It

- ***We've paid*** for undergrounding in our utility bills.
- If we don't use them to underground our utilities, ***other neighborhoods will use our money to underground theirs.***



Where Do We Go From Here?

- Let's work together to design this project properly.
- Form and *ad hoc* group to develop standards.
- Continue with the Council vote as scheduled.