

RESOLUTION NO. 25- 8997

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLUMAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ESTABLISHING AN UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT IN A PORTION OF THE COMMUNITY OF CHESTER DESIGNATING SAID DISTRICT AN UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 7 DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES OF SAID DISTRICT AND ESTABLISHING THE TIMES IN WHICH POLES AND OVERHEAD WIRES SHALL BE REMOVED AND UNDERGROUND SERVICE PROVIDED

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Plumas County as follows:

WHEREAS, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has authorized electric and telecommunication utilities to convert overhead utility lines and facilities to underground pursuant to Electric Rule 20 and Telecommunication Rule 32; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to certain criteria, CPUC rules allow participating counties to establish legislation authorizing the creation of underground utility districts within which existing overhead electric distribution and telecommunication distribution and service facilities will be converted to underground, and

WHEREAS, Plumas County, has adopted an ordinance, codified as Title 7, Chapter 2, in the Plumas County Municipal Code, authorizing the Board of Supervisors to designate areas within which all existing overhead poles, overhead wires and overhead equipment associated with the distribution of electric power, telecommunication services and cable television should be removed and replaced with underground wires and facilities; and

WHEREAS, each year Plumas County is notified by PG&E regarding the allocation of work credits for conversion of overhead electric distribution lines and facilities to underground, known as Rule 20A allocations, and

WHEREAS, Plumas County has consulted with PG&E and determined that the County has accumulated Rule 20A work credits which will be used entirely, and

WHEREAS, Plumas County has consulted with affected utilities regarding the responsibility that each utility shall complete the engineering of their respective portion of the Chester Underground Utility District No. 7, and

WHEREAS, Plumas County and the affected utilities have consulted and the County shall be responsible for preparation of the trench profile and composite drawings and shall be designated as "trenching agent" to manage trenching, installation of substructures, and pavement restoration and such other work, and

WHEREAS, Plumas County and the affected utilities have agreed on a work schedule which meets their respective capabilities and further agreed to waive any administrative fees, costs of special street restoration requirements for purposes of this project, and

WHEREAS, to the extent required, Plumas County has agreed to provide easements or rights of way on private property as may be necessary for installation of utility facilities in a form satisfactory to the affected utilities, and

clerk

WHEREAS, a public hearing was called for February 18, 2025 at the hour of 11:00 AM in the Board of Supervisors Chamber at the Plumas County Courthouse Building, California to ascertain whether the public necessity, health safety or welfare required the removal of poles, overhead wires and associated overhead structures and the underground installation of wires and facilities supplying electric communication or similar associated service within that certain area of the County described as shown on the attached map, and

WHEREAS, notice of such public hearing was given to all affected property owners as shown in the latest equalized assessment role and to all affected utilities in the manner and for the time required by law; and

WHEREAS, such public hearing was duly held and all interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard, testimony of the County Engineer has been received as well as competent evidence in the above-entitled matter; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors determined after hearing all comments on the subject that the Underground Utility District herein is created in the general public interest for one or more for the following reasons:

- 1) Such undergrounding will avoid or eliminate an unusually heavy concentration of overhead electric facilities; and
- 2) The street or load or right-of-way is extensively used by the general public and carries a heavy volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic (*including bicycles*); and
- 3) The street or road or right-of-way adjoins or passes through a civic area or public recreation area or an area of unusual scenic interest to the general public; and
- 4) The street or road or right-of-way is considered an arterial street or major collector as defined in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research General Plan Guidelines *and in the adopted General Plan*.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Plumas County has determined that the proposed Chester Underground Utility District No. 7 is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Plumas County held a public hearing pursuant to Plumas County Municipal Code Section, Title 7, Chapter 2, to consider the creation of an underground utility district in conjunction with the "project".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Plumas County that pursuant to Plumas County Municipal Code Title 7, Chapter 2, of Plumas County the above described area is hereby declared an Underground Utility District and is designated as Chester Underground Utility District No. 7 of Plumas County attached hereto marked Exhibit 'A' and hereby incorporated as part of this resolution is a map delineating the boundaries of said District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that the public interest requires the removal of all existing utility poles, overhead wires and associated overhead structures and installation of underground wires and facilities for supplying electric power, communication, or similar associated services within the areas as shown in Exhibit A, attached hereto, with such area being designated as the Chester Underground Utility District No. 7.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 2 of the Plumas County Municipal Code, the facilities that may be maintained above ground are:

- a) Ornamental street lighting and appurtenances.
- b) Traffic, bicycle and/or pedestrian signals and appurtenances.
- c) Telephone system above grade splice boxes.
- cl) Overhead wires, and associated support structures which may be part of a later please and or subsequent schedule within the District,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the utility companies, cable television services and other affected services shall commence work on installation of underground facility installation in Chester Underground Utility District No. 7 and that as each phase of the project is complete and ready for conversion from overhead to underground utility facilities, all fronting property owners shall be notified by first class letter, postage pre-paid, of the schedule for conversion of all utility service lines, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors does hereby establish that the date on which affected property owners must be ready to receive underground service and the order the removal of all poles, overhead wires and associated overhead structures and the underground installation of wires and facilities for supplying electric communication or similar or associated service within Chester Underground Utility District No. 7 shall be established by a schedule determined at the time a bid is awarded for the project, as required by a phasing plan or by dates as may be set by a subsequent schedule, or before March 31, 2029; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the utility which undertakes underground installation of its facilities shall use the underground conversion allocation computed pursuant to decisions of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California for the purposes of providing to each premises in Chester Underground Utility District No 7 - requiring it a maximum of one hundred feet of individual electrical service trenching conductor as well as backfill paving and conduit if required and each other serving utility work will provide service trenching and conductor in accordance with its tariffs on file with the California Public Utilities Commission or as required by its Franchise Agreement with Plumas County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the utility which undertakes underground installation of its facilities shall use the underground conversion allocation, up to a maximum amount of \$1500 per service entrance excluding permit fees, and shall utilize Rule 20A credits for the remaining expense (estimated at \$3,500 per connection) for the conversion of electric service panels to accept underground service in Chester Underground Utility District No. 7 and each property owner shall be responsible for the maintenance of the conduit and termination box located on, under or within any structure on the premised served.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby instructed to notify all affected utilities and all persons owning real property within Chester Underground Utility District No. 7 of the adoption of this resolution within ten (10) days after the date of such adoption. Said County Clerk shall further notify said property owners of the necessity that, if they or any person occupying such property desires to continue to receive electric, communication or other similar or associated service, they, or such occupant, shall by the date fixed in this resolution provide all necessary facility changes on their premises so as to receive such service from the lines on the supplying utility or utilities at a new location, subject to applicable rules, regulations and tariffs of the respective utility or utilities on file with the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California. Such notification shall be made by mailing a copy of this resolution together with a copy of Title 7, Chapter 2 of the Plumas County Municipal Code, to affected property owners as such are shown on the last equalized assessment roll and to the affected utilities.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas, State of California, at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of February 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors: McGowan, Engel, Goss, Hall, Ceresola

NOES: Supervisors:

ABSTAIN: Supervisors:



Chair, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Approved as to form:



Joshua Brechtel, Attorney
County Counsel's Office