

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Meeting with SCE & Cities to Discuss Concerns

Thursday, October 23, 2014

Meeting Notes

1. Self Introductions – sign-in sheet attached. 10 cities represented, 20 attendees.
2. Brief Summary of why the SBCCOG convened the meeting by Chair Goodhart.
3. City by City Summary of Concerns
 - a. Lawndale – Not sufficient notification by the contractors. Issues re: pulling Permits. Need to improve advanced notice to the city.
 - b. Palos Verdes Estates – Traffic control for SCE projects not thought out. Outage notifications aren't timely. We appreciate their \$600,000 investment now but what is the long term or even 5 year plan? Residents say that the customer service 800# people do not provide up to date information and don't know what's current. Information from the website, phone staff and field staff are all different. The escalating cost of undergrounding has escalated substantially (3x) and led to several local utility districts having to disband because of cost.
 - c. Hermosa Beach – Staff appreciates the improvements made since their meeting with SCE 6 months ago. Still problems though – restoration of sidewalks on project completion is still slow. Poles: Coordination with other utilities for removal and reinstallation of their wires on poles is not happening. Pole replacement took two months and phone and cable portion of the wires were levitated. Need management plan. Advanced notice for outages is not happening being provided. People with medical needs are not notified when an outage schedule has changed. There should be a special notification process for "special needs" customers. Some of the sub contractors are better than SCE. They can be more than twice as fast. SCE project today blocked off a street in Redondo Beach causing traffic problems that weren't warranted. Post card notification is insufficient. Email, text or phone calls would be better. SCE field reps are telling builders where to locate meters and then later, change the location causing schedule and cost impacts. Need street long term maintenance plan; funding is available but not used. Need to coordinate replacement of city owned and SCE owned street lights so lighting is consistent. (LED vs. Hi Pressure Sodium)

- d. Redondo Beach – It is very hard for commercial areas to be notified of planned outages that do not happen and there is no explanation or notice of re-scheduling. SCE work performed with no permit or don't follow the conditions of permits, i.e., night work requires a 7 day notice. Power line pole relocation is not in compliance with ADA, i.e., pole is in the middle of a sidewalk at an intersection ramp. Traffic control non-existent during tree trimming and city has experienced debris left nearby for weeks. Removed a storm drain and installed footings with no approvals (near Marina Street). Field reps give permission on meter locations and then change their minds, several times. Best management practice not used in excavation procedures.
- e. Torrance – Good working relationship with permit section but disconnect with SCE and their subcontractors. No advance notice. Jobs incomplete. Mark up the streets with lines and then not cleaned up. Development projects that are developing are faced with time lag between completion of work and the system being energized. Don't know who to contact. There should be a central point of contact for large projects. Field crew in Del Amo Mall is good but delays happen higher up in the SCE organization. Meetings every 6 months between SCE and city staff but SCE brings the wrong people and not the people who need to be there.
- f. Gardena – A contract started in 1999 just finished 1 month ago (Rosecrans Underground District). Bad communication was largely responsible. Need a better understanding of the commercial power outages on the grids and which areas on the grid are affected by which the power outages. It is recognized that this is confidential information for the general public but if the police knew, they could patrol those areas more and protect those affected by the outage.
- g. Rolling Hills - A major project performed in the City last November - December. Insufficient notification received. Project work shouldn't be done during the holidays and evening hours if that can be avoided. SCE contractors did not use easements to access properties and were rude to residents who objected to use of private property. Location of poles and copies of easements for the poles are needed. 5 year plan is important for infrastructure projects. Residents concerned with health impacts of Smart Meters and location on structures, i.e., near bedroom walls. When will smart meters be installed? Can solar panels work without a smart meter?
- h. Rancho Palos Verdes – RPV contractor followed Dig Alert advisory but SCE plans were inaccurate (Ryan Park). Several fires have been caused by SCE or contractors in the Portuguese Bend area. More Bird protectors are needed in many areas. Problem is caused with the wing span of the Red Tail Hawk which allows them to be electrocuted and fall to the ground causing potential fires. RPV has experienced late payments by SCE to the city. Subcontractors should have better training for use of fire suppression equipment when working in grassy areas to react quickly and minimize fire danger.