

Community Forum on SCE Undergrounding in Altadena

Recorded October 22, 2025, this virtual community forum brings together representatives from Southern California Edison and Los Angeles County to discuss plans to underground power lines in neighborhoods affected by the Eaton Fire. The event includes an overview of plans directly impacting Altadena and a resident-moderated Q&A featuring questions from the community.

Co-hosted by ACONA and Altgether.

Watch on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/EqpNvCmVOrQ>

Note: this transcript was automatically generated by Zoom and may contain errors.

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00:00:07.480 --> 00:00:17.290

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Good evening, everybody. It's October 22nd, 2025. We have a special ACONA meeting, and for the first time, we're partnering with Altgether.

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00:00:17.490 --> 00:00:23.260

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I'm hopefully doing some good work here tonight to get some clarity on SCE undergrounding.

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00:00:23.340 --> 00:00:27.499

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: We've got some great guests, so I'm not going to delay, and we're gonna dive right in.

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00:00:27.560 --> 00:00:44.189

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Just some housekeeping. If you're looking to... first of all, the session is being recorded, and that recording will be made available. It'll be sent to all attendees and others who registered. It'll also appear, I imagine, on the Altgether website, as well as the ACONA website.

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00:00:44.830 --> 00:00:49.320

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: If you're looking to make comment, here's how you submit a question tonight.

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00:00:49.599 --> 00:00:58.750

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: If you're on a mobile or computer, you can see the box at the bottom of those. That's where you will find a Q&A button. You can see that closer up.

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00:00:59.290 --> 00:01:07.229

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: That's how you submit your questions tonight. If you don't see it, press the More button, and you'll have other choices where you will find it.

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00:01:08.740 --> 00:01:21.780

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, John Mayo, our partner with Altgether. Wave at the people, please. Thank you. I'm with some more Altgetherteam, and I'm with some great county, state, and

12

00:01:22.050 --> 00:01:32.739

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: SCE officials, so we're gonna dive right in. And first, I'm going to introduce Rachel Silsby from SCE. Rachel, would you mind... or Rochelle, sorry, would you mind, introducing your team for me?

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00:01:33.510 --> 00:01:44.840

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Of course. Thank you so much, ACONA and Altgether, for hosting Edison today. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to hear from us.

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00:01:44.840 --> 00:01:59.300

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Hopefully, the information we'll have for you here today will be helpful, in, you know, the various rebuilding plans that everyone has. My name is Rochelle Silsby, and I'm a Principal Manager of Public Affairs for Southern California Edison.

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00:01:59.300 --> 00:02:08.410

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Joining me, is Al Diaz, and he's our District Manager in the area, and also in charge of our rebuild. Al, can you introduce yourself as well?

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00:02:09.870 --> 00:02:17.699

Albert Diaz, SCE: Good afternoon, everybody. As Rochelle said, my name is Albert Diaz. I am the manager responsible for the rebuild in Altadena.

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00:02:20.310 --> 00:02:22.130

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: And then, can we have Vanessa?

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00:02:24.570 --> 00:02:32.249

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Hi, good evening, everyone. My name is Vanessa Cardenas, and I am the project manager for the Land Rights Acquisitions for the Eaton Fire.

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00:02:34.430 --> 00:02:35.660

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: What's, Professor?

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00:02:36.280 --> 00:02:37.990

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: And can we have Lisa?

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00:02:38.680 --> 00:02:57.869

Lisa Woon, SCE: Hi, good evening, everybody. Thank you again for giving us an opportunity to be here with you this evening. Lisa Woon, I'm with the External Affairs team here with SCE. I've been working on the rebuild efforts since the, early February, and I'm also assigned to a special task force that works on wildfire efforts for the company.

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00:03:00.690 --> 00:03:01.410

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Dave.

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00:03:03.770 --> 00:03:08.520

David Ford, SCE: I'm Dave Ford, I'm the Government Relations Manager responsible for LA County.

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00:03:08.740 --> 00:03:13.779

David Ford, SCE: And, glad to be here, and thank you, Nick, for facilitating this meeting for us.

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00:03:15.940 --> 00:03:17.120

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: And Valerie.

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00:03:18.310 --> 00:03:30.320

Valarie Hernandez, SCE: Hi, good evening, everyone. Sorry I'm having trouble with my camera this evening, but I'm Valerie Hernandez from Local Public Affairs, Southern California Edison. I'm a principal manager there focused on community engagement.

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00:03:31.770 --> 00:03:37.949

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: And I also see Thomas is joining us today as well. We have a good contingent for medicine here today.

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00:03:40.150 --> 00:03:44.349

Thomas Wong, SCE: Hi everyone, Thomas Huang with Southern California Edison, our local public affairs team.

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00:03:46.250 --> 00:03:47.780

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: You think that's it, Chris?

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00:03:48.100 --> 00:03:58.590

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Rochelle and team. We'll go into your presentation before we do. I just wanted to explain to those watching. The forum tonight will include short presentations by our guests.

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00:03:58.590 --> 00:04:11.479

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Followed by a moderated discussion, and then the bulk of the evening will open up to that Q&A period. Again, to find that, you go to the Q&A box at the bottom of your screen, whether on mobile or computer.

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00:04:11.560 --> 00:04:14.150

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: With that, Rochelle, it's all yours.

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00:04:18.080 --> 00:04:27.520

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Great, thank you so much for sharing that screen, and actually, I will, be kicking off to Al, who's going to be going through this presentation for us. Thank you.

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00:04:29.260 --> 00:04:33.859

Albert Diaz, SCE: Thank you, Rochelle. So if we can go ahead and go to the next slide, please.

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00:04:37.320 --> 00:04:39.699

Albert Diaz, SCE: Let's go one more over, please.

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00:04:41.090 --> 00:04:52.340

Albert Diaz, SCE: So currently, Southern California Edison is, working on undergrounding approximately 63 miles of the electrical distribution system here in Altadena.

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00:04:52.340 --> 00:05:09.190

Albert Diaz, SCE: As part of our, major rebuild here. Approximately 40 miles are in high-fire area, and approximately 23 miles are in non-high-fire areas that were completely devastated, in which we did not build back our infrastructure after the Eaton fire.

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00:05:09.620 --> 00:05:22.750

Albert Diaz, SCE: Actively, we currently... we currently have about 2.7 miles of active construction, taking place, predominantly in the area of, East, Loma Alta Drive and Sunny Slope.

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00:05:23.060 --> 00:05:38.510

Albert Diaz, SCE: There's an additional 4.7 miles of active construction that are going to be starting within the next 3 to 4 weeks. The reason we did start up on Loma Alta was that area, pre-fire, was already, scoped to be, undergrounded.

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00:05:38.510 --> 00:05:48.140

Albert Diaz, SCE: So we already were ahead with some of the, some of the designs and some of the, requirements needed in order to, to start the undergrounding process.

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00:05:50.080 --> 00:06:01.079

Albert Diaz, SCE: In addition, there are about 19 circuit miles that are currently under evaluation, an additional 19 circuit miles that are currently under evaluation, to also be undergrounded.

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00:06:01.240 --> 00:06:09.399

Albert Diaz, SCE: The... after the fire, we had... we used to have a 4KV and a 16KV system here in Altadena.

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00:06:09.400 --> 00:06:30.240

Albert Diaz, SCE: After the fire, we, eliminated our 4KV system, and now it's all 16KV. The 16KV system is, a lot better, because it can accommodate all of the additional loads that, we're seeing in homes nowadays, where it's, you know, your solar systems, your electric vehicles.

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00:06:30.240 --> 00:06:42.029

Albert Diaz, SCE: And it really is a lot better, on the 4KV system. We used to have, voltage issues during the summer. With the 16,000 volt system, it's a lot, it's a lot better. We don't have any voltage issues.

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00:06:42.260 --> 00:07:01.960

Albert Diaz, SCE: Part of this, undergrounding system also includes adding a lot more automated switches, fault detection equipment. All of these items will help us, minimize, not only minimize the outage size, but also, help us restore power a lot faster, when power does go out.

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00:07:03.270 --> 00:07:06.010

Albert Diaz, SCE: We can move on to the next slide, please.

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00:07:07.410 --> 00:07:26.750

Albert Diaz, SCE: So this right here is our map of our currently proposed 63 miles of undergrounding in Altadena. This map can be found in the Altadena page within SCE, and we can share that link with Nick, and he can send it to everybody after this call.

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00:07:26.750 --> 00:07:31.770

Albert Diaz, SCE: But this will give you an idea of where we're undergrounding in Altadena.

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00:07:32.410 --> 00:07:34.389

Albert Diaz, SCE: If we can go to the next slide, please.

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00:07:35.410 --> 00:07:44.799

Albert Diaz, SCE: Some of the benefits and... of undergrounding are, by... once we are able to underground,

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00:07:45.680 --> 00:08:03.049

Albert Diaz, SCE: everything that we're trying to underground, it's going to help reduce PSPS, which is the public safety power shutoffs. So, an overhead... an underground system is less susceptible to the PSPS. In addition, you know, I know that the trees are,

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00:08:03.850 --> 00:08:20.909

Albert Diaz, SCE: the community here really loves, you know, our trees here. One of the things is we won't have to be doing any more tree trimming, like we did in the past. And it also does improve the aesthetics of the area, not having the, the overhead lines.

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00:08:21.840 --> 00:08:32.890

Albert Diaz, SCE: So this, what you're seeing in the screen right now, this is, a typical design, for... that you will see in... in your neighborhoods, if your neighborhood is being undergrounded.

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00:08:32.890 --> 00:08:42.529

Albert Diaz, SCE: Some of the things that you're gonna see are pad-mounted transformers, underground... you won't see the underground conduit, but there'll be underground conduit. You're gonna see vaults, handholes.

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00:08:42.540 --> 00:08:48.099

Albert Diaz, SCE: And, stub-outs for service lines. So here on this map,

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00:08:48.100 --> 00:09:02.630

Albert Diaz, SCE: it, every home will have a stub out, and what a stub-out is, is basically a location for you to connect to the underground distribution system. And that would... there'll be one at every single property line.

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00:09:02.640 --> 00:09:16.689

Albert Diaz, SCE: Handholds are gonna be something that's gonna be very commonly, seen throughout the... throughout the system. If we go to the next slide, I can show you a picture of,

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00:09:16.790 --> 00:09:26.170

Albert Diaz, SCE: of a hand hole, so on the right side, that's a handhole. And like I said, it's a small underground access point for us to be able to connect your home to the underground system.

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00:09:26.380 --> 00:09:45.740

Albert Diaz, SCE: It's usually about 17 inches by 30 inches. It's flush to the ground, no different than, a lot of people are familiar with, like, your water meter. It's no different than that. And it's really minimal, minimal impact. Typically, you'll find this, within the right-of-way, of, of the street.

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00:09:48.720 --> 00:10:01.539

Albert Diaz, SCE: And then on the left side, that is a pad-mounted transformer. So you will... we will also have pad-mounted transformers. These are ground-level transformers that replace the ones that you typically would see on an overhead pole.

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00:10:03.200 --> 00:10:23.390

Albert Diaz, SCE: They're enclosed and locked, they're weather-resistant, so they are safe. They are safe to be out in the public. Typically, you'll see one of these transformers, it's one for about every 8 to 10 homes. And again, this is what powers your home. The transformer brings the voltage down from 16,000 volts

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00:10:23.390 --> 00:10:29.070

Albert Diaz, SCE: to 122.40, which is what a residential home... the voltage a residential home uses.

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00:10:31.290 --> 00:10:40.970

Albert Diaz, SCE: If we can go to... or actually, I'm sorry, on the service, stub-out, that I was discussing earlier.

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00:10:41.040 --> 00:10:45.289

Albert Diaz, SCE: So the service stub out is to your property line.

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00:10:45.300 --> 00:10:59.590

Albert Diaz, SCE: And there is still, you will need to... the homeowner is responsible for trenching from the stub out to the panel, which we estimate is about \$8,000 to \$10,000.

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00:10:59.590 --> 00:11:18.719

Albert Diaz, SCE: This estimate was based on using an SC union contractor. It doesn't include additional costs, such as landscaping and concrete repair. It's very likely, though, that if a customer hires their own contractor, they can probably get it done for less than the \$8,000 to \$10,000.

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00:11:18.720 --> 00:11:36.830

Albert Diaz, SCE: One of the things that the county has actually been very actively pursuing is, a funding opportunity, in collaboration with Cal OES to secure some FEMA funding to be able to help, residents, or customers with the, the cost of.

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00:11:36.830 --> 00:11:40.570

Albert Diaz, SCE: Going from, the stub out to the panel.

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00:11:41.840 --> 00:11:43.810

Albert Diaz, SCE: If we can go to the next slide now.

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00:11:46.140 --> 00:11:55.970

Albert Diaz, SCE: So I know one of the big questions that a lot of residents have been asking is, what about the homes that are still standing?

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00:11:55.990 --> 00:12:12.239

Albert Diaz, SCE: You know, will we have to cut over? Will we not, have a source? So you will have a source, and we do have a solution in the interim until, the customer is able to, underground from the stub to the... to the panel.

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00:12:12.240 --> 00:12:23.740

Albert Diaz, SCE: Is we will... on the screen here, what you're seeing is... so the hand hole is located in front of the pole. There'll be a service pole, typically between 25 and 35, foot pole.

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00:12:23.740 --> 00:12:38.410

Albert Diaz, SCE: And what we'll do is we'll rise up that pole to feed, your existing weather head. So, you'll still have power, you'll continue to have power, you won't go without power even after we underground your area or your neighborhood.

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00:12:40.700 --> 00:12:45.479

Albert Diaz, SCE: And now I will hand it over to Vanessa.

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00:12:45.600 --> 00:12:47.730

Albert Diaz, SCE: with the land acquisitions team.

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00:12:49.710 --> 00:12:53.779

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Thanks, Albert. Hi, everyone. Can we go to the next slide, please?

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00:12:55.810 --> 00:13:02.740

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: So, as I was saying before, I am project managing the land rights acquisitions for the Eaton Fire Rebuild effort.

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00:13:02.910 --> 00:13:17.839

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: What my team does is, once the planning team or planning and operations have designed a circuit, that work order map, or that map, comes over to my team, and we create... we verify the impact of the circuit to the property, we research ownership.

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00:13:18.060 --> 00:13:31.189

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: And then after that, we begin to engage property owners via call, text message, email, mail, a door knock if that's possible, and we try every method that we can to get in touch with the property owner.

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00:13:31.450 --> 00:13:44.469

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Once we begin conversations with them, we'll deliver to them the right of entry agreement that will show the design of what we're proposing to install on their property.

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00:13:44.480 --> 00:13:52.859

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: We will be only, approaching property owners where we are looking to acquire easement rights over private property.

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00:13:52.880 --> 00:13:57.030

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: But, I'm jumping ahead, I apologize. So,

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00:13:57.230 --> 00:14:04.640

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: what we do in the initial stages is prepare the necessary documentation to deliver to the property owner. Next slide, please.

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00:14:06.530 --> 00:14:23.189

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: So, what I had touched on a little bit earlier is the right of entry agreement. We developed the right of entry agreement as a way to fast track scheduling and construction, which is extremely important, especially for the fire rebuild effort. And easement

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00:14:23.400 --> 00:14:25.780

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Which is the final right that gives us

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00:14:25.920 --> 00:14:42.610

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: the ability to have our equipment in place over private property, that takes approximately 6 months to prepare and have that documentation ready. So the right of entry allows us... it's much quicker for us to get that ready, and it allows us to

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00:14:42.610 --> 00:14:49.569

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: To construct, operate, and maintain the facilities that we construct on a property while we work on getting the easement ready.

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00:14:49.700 --> 00:15:04.260

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: When we present an owner with an ROE, we are shooting for a 30-day timeline to, achieve signatures, to answer any questions that we can. In order to do that, we'll try to,

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00:15:04.580 --> 00:15:21.319

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: To schedule a site visit, review the design that we're proposing over a property, and answer any questions that the customer might have in relation to the design, to the agreement, just whatever we can do to make the property owner feel comfortable with every step of the process.

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00:15:21.540 --> 00:15:31.999

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: For the ROE, we offer a \$500 compensation at the signing of the ROE, and then there'll also be an additional compensation that's offered at the time of easement signing.

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00:15:32.490 --> 00:15:36.059

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: It is important to note that it is...

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00:15:36.470 --> 00:15:43.970

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: We do need 100% participation of the affected property owners for each project, so that we can move forward with construction.

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00:15:44.410 --> 00:15:45.899

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Next slide, please.

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00:15:48.500 --> 00:16:05.450

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: This is an ROE exhibit example. This is something that, it's typical that we would provide with the right of entry agreement. So, what we do is we use

the yellow line that surrounds the parcel. That will indicate a property owner's, property lines.

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00:16:05.510 --> 00:16:13.120

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: The pink cross-hatched area is the easement area that we're asking for, and the... the...

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00:16:13.270 --> 00:16:21.499

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: The light blue or teal color of the equipment, that's the equipment that we're planning to, or that we would like to install.

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00:16:21.680 --> 00:16:38.800

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: So this will be typical as far as what we would include in an ROE packet. And I know Albert had showed an example of the pad mount, but this is... this is an example also showing here of the pad mount of what we would try to be installing in that location.

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00:16:39.320 --> 00:16:40.720

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Next slide, please.

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00:16:43.170 --> 00:16:44.000

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: So...

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00:16:44.080 --> 00:17:00.200

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: It's a... I like to highlight what the ROE... the nitty-gritty of the ROE and what it really gets down to. So, for us, it helps to facilitate the Altadena rebuilding effort. It's ensuring that we can provide electric service with improved safety and reliability.

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00:17:00.220 --> 00:17:09.780

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: It's a short document, it's 3 pages, it includes that easy-to-understand exhibit that we just went over, and shows you how your property would be affected.

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00:17:09.839 --> 00:17:17.090

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: It grants SCE access and authorization to construct, maintain, and operate facilities on the property.

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00:17:17.300 --> 00:17:29.490

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: The right of entry agreement is a temporary right, so once the easement is signed, that right of entry essentially would go away, and the easement would stay in place and be recorded against your property.

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00:17:29.590 --> 00:17:42.509

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: As mentioned before, there are two opportunities for compensation. One would be at the ROE signing, and one at the easement signing. I'd like to just highlight that signing an ROE does not waive or release the

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00:17:42.620 --> 00:17:46.100

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Property owner's right to file a claim against SCE,

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00:17:46.310 --> 00:17:51.290

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Signing an ROE indicates that the property owner is agreeing to signing a future easement.

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00:17:51.610 --> 00:18:10.219

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Site meetings can be scheduled per property, and we use that time to focus on each property owner's needs, their questions on design, and their impacts to their property. We prefer to not hold group meetings, just so we can focus on property owners one at a time.

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00:18:10.430 --> 00:18:16.780

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: I also wanted to mention that, my acquisitions group is supported by our contractor, and that's Monument Right-of-Way Group.

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00:18:17.670 --> 00:18:19.380

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Next slide, please.

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00:18:25.410 --> 00:18:28.310

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: I will pass it over. Is this back to you, Albert?

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00:18:35.720 --> 00:18:40.319

Albert Diaz, SCE: I think that was the end of our presentation. I think we handed back over to, Nick.

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00:18:40.870 --> 00:18:56.399

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: We just wanted to, of course, share these important building resources for the community. I feel like we can't reiterate this one enough. I know a number of folks have been able to go in person to the recovery center, as well as contact us.

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00:18:56.400 --> 00:18:59.769

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Over the phone, just understanding that,

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00:18:59.770 --> 00:19:18.189

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: This particular phone line is particularly for rebuilding and recovery, so it's a, it's a dedicated customer service line that's available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m, Monday through Fridays, or Saturdays through 8 to 5. And, again, just wanted to be sure, that this information was available to all.

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00:19:18.840 --> 00:19:19.810

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Thank you.

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00:19:20.860 --> 00:19:29.880

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Rochelle, and your team, and we'll be getting to our discussion in a moment. I'm going to turn over to Kara Barnett with LA County Public Works.

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00:19:30.080 --> 00:19:46.500

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Great, thanks very much, Nick. Thanks for the opportunity to be here, and I do apologize, I'm having technical difficulties with my camera, but my name is Kira Barnett, and I'm an Assistant Deputy Director at the Los

Angeles County Public Works, leading recovery efforts. And with me tonight is Alicia Ramos on my team.

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00:19:46.930 --> 00:19:58.209

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Public Works is working with all utilities to facilitate undergrounding, and I'm here to share some information about permitting processes related to undergrounding. So if we could go to the next slide, please.

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00:20:00.190 --> 00:20:11.429

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: For all fire rebuilds, it's important that you engage Southern California Edison during the plan review process. SCE are involved with where and how power will be provided to your property.

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00:20:11.850 --> 00:20:17.000

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: There are areas, as discussed tonight, for which area undergrounding is planned.

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00:20:17.090 --> 00:20:27.030

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: And whether you're rebuilding, replacing an electrical panel on an existing home, or adding a service panel, if your home is in an area where undergrounding is planned.

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00:20:27.030 --> 00:20:37.480

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: There are steps you can take now to prepare for future undergrounding. Preparing now can save you significant time and expense once SCE begin undergrounding in your area.

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00:20:37.480 --> 00:20:44.250

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: We've created a guide to help you prepare for this upcoming effort, which can be found at [recovery](https://dot.lacounty.gov).

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00:20:44.330 --> 00:20:46.220

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: [dot lacounty.gov](https://dot.lacounty.gov).

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00:20:46.440 --> 00:20:53.519

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: forward slash rebuilding, Forward slash rebuild dash policies, as seen on the right of your screen.

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00:20:54.470 --> 00:20:56.770

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: And if we could go to the next slide, please.

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00:20:58.130 --> 00:21:15.299

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: First, it will be imperative that you install an adaptable panel that can be served overhead now, and later be converted to be served by underground power. These adaptable panels cost the same as traditional panels, and will prepare you to continue to receive power for the life of the panel.

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00:21:16.050 --> 00:21:25.199

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Second, to prepare to connect underground, you will need to install underground conduit from the service panel to the utility designated service point.

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00:21:25.620 --> 00:21:32.000

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Working with SCE, you'll... they'll help you to identify the location of the designated service point.

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00:21:32.660 --> 00:21:38.959

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: And working with Edison will be the best way to stay informed on how to prepare your site now and for the future.

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00:21:39.340 --> 00:21:48.060

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: So during the rebuilding review process, a service request number from Southern California Edison is required for all rebuilds.

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00:21:48.200 --> 00:21:53.480

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: New accessory dwelling units, new panels, and for temporary power.

133

00:21:54.180 --> 00:22:04.099

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Edison will need preliminary documentation to initiate their clearance and issue a service request number. And that documentation includes a preliminary site plan.

134

00:22:04.520 --> 00:22:09.690

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: The proposed meter location Estimated loads, if those are available.

135

00:22:09.980 --> 00:22:12.930

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: The service voltage, and the panel size.

136

00:22:13.440 --> 00:22:15.569

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: And if you could go to the next slide, please.

137

00:22:16.770 --> 00:22:39.760

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: So you can apply online at sche.com forward slash partners, and should you need additional support, you can visit Southern California Edison representatives, as they mentioned, at the Altadena One Stop Permit Center, or access resources through Edison's targeted underground website, which can be found by visiting sche.com forward slash

138

00:22:39.760 --> 00:22:40.410

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: tug.

139

00:22:41.400 --> 00:22:45.299

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: And that, concludes my presentation. Thank you for the time.

140

00:22:46.170 --> 00:22:47.269

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Kara.

141

00:22:47.660 --> 00:22:55.399

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And then I do have a representative from CPUC. Hope and Nora are here. Hope, would you like to say anything, or Nora?

142

00:22:57.690 --> 00:23:01.849

Hope Christman - CPUC: Hi, thank you for having me tonight. I just wanted to,

143

00:23:01.910 --> 00:23:20.539

Hope Christman - CPUC: briefly introduce myself. I am Hope Chrisman, I'm the local government liaison with the California Public Utilities Commission, managing the, Los Angeles County, areas, and Altadena, and specifically. With me tonight, I also have my colleague, Nora Gutierrez. Nora wants to say hello?

144

00:23:27.390 --> 00:23:30.130

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Nora, we're not getting your volume.

145

00:23:32.400 --> 00:23:33.110

Nora Gutierrez CPUC: Oops.

146

00:23:33.270 --> 00:23:50.660

Nora Gutierrez CPUC: My apologies, I had the master volume off. Hi, good afternoon, or good evening. My name is Nora Gutierrez, and I work closely with Hope. I cover also the LA County region, specifically just rooms 1, 2, and 4, as well as the South Bay and East LA area. So, thank you.

147

00:23:51.550 --> 00:24:02.319

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Nora. Thank you, all our guests. It's great to have you and everybody listening in. I just want to take a moment to kind of take a breath and realize, kind of listening to everything.

148

00:24:02.530 --> 00:24:10.729

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: where we're at, and what a surreal moment it is for us as residents. So we certainly appreciate the opportunity for clarity from our guests.

149

00:24:10.800 --> 00:24:27.160

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlidge: And I do recognize that those visiting, those listening in, are in different stages of grief and trauma, and as we hope to rebuild, I hope that those that are here tonight, presenting to us will continue this communication, because that's going to be important moving forward.

150

00:24:27.160 --> 00:24:43.460

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlidge: Also next to me is Morgan Whirlidge. Morgan... Almost, almost. Whirlidge? Whirlidge, you got it. Worlich. Morgan is a resident, also a fire survivor. Like myself, Morgan lost everything in the fires and is,

151

00:24:43.720 --> 00:24:48.669

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlidge: a strong member of Altagether and a Block Captain? That's correct, yes. Anything I miss?

152

00:24:48.880 --> 00:25:00.990

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlidge: I think you got it, including the last name. Congratulations. All right, well, eventually. So I just want to dive right in. We've got some questions. I'm going to start with some follow-up questions to our panel, and

153

00:25:00.990 --> 00:25:11.989

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlidge: If it's possible, can you take us back to a gallery view, John, so I can see who looks like they're ready to take on a question? I'm gonna follow up right with,

154

00:25:12.740 --> 00:25:29.799

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlidge: Essie and everybody, I'm going to share the slides you've shared tonight. Those will be along with the recording, and with the slide... the link that was mentioned, the proposed undergrounding link. I'll include that on our websites, and we'll probably send that out to participants as well, if we are able.

155

00:25:29.870 --> 00:25:37.260

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlidge: Let's start... let's dive right in. Which FEMA grant is the county and Cal OES pursuing?

156

00:25:40.680 --> 00:25:54.570

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: This is Alicia Ramos with LA County, and I can go ahead and give an answer to that. The Los Angeles County Public Works, in conjunction with SCE, they're supporting us strongly in this effort. We are pursuing the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

157

00:25:54.810 --> 00:26:01.099

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: which we are working with members of Cal OES to get that application in, which will subsequently

158

00:26:01.220 --> 00:26:10.429

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: be submitted to the federal government. FEMA will be the one to ultimately, review the final application, and we hope for the award of the grant.

159

00:26:11.680 --> 00:26:17.510

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Thank you, Alicia, and I think it was first mentioned by SCE. Are you all working in coordination with that?

160

00:26:18.450 --> 00:26:23.170

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Yes, so SCE has helped us in terms of, in the grant application.

161

00:26:23.470 --> 00:26:40.769

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: We've got to do up a large-scale estimation of how many homes are impacted, both homes that have been destroyed from the fire, damage from the fire, and those standing that are along the new undergrounded routes. All of those households we are working with SCE to identify them.

162

00:26:40.770 --> 00:26:45.959

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Make sure that when we capture the ask of the large-scale grant.

163

00:26:45.960 --> 00:26:52.770

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: funding amount, we want to make sure that we capture, money that will cover all those eligible homes.

164

00:26:53.650 --> 00:27:02.460

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Great, I appreciate that answer, and I'll see if anybody wants to add anything, but before I do, let's expand on it. As you know, those funds can be limited.

165

00:27:02.460 --> 00:27:16.419

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: So, I appreciate you saying, you know, making sure that it covers all those eligible homes. In the case that it might not, it might cover part of the undergrounding plan, is there a part of Altadena that you plan to prioritize, or a level of destruction?

166

00:27:17.990 --> 00:27:35.619

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So, from the county's perspective of how we're forming the grant ask, we are not necessarily prioritizing. We're really looking at all the households along the SCE undergrounded routes will all be impacted to some extent. Whether or not you're going through construction or you're living in your home still.

167

00:27:35.620 --> 00:27:43.070

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: you will be impacted by the undergrounding of the new routes. So there is not necessarily a prioritization in terms of tiers.

168

00:27:43.220 --> 00:27:54.900

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: In the grant, you will see a narrative that identifies the unique circumstances of each of those categories, and we explain why they're eligible, or why we would consider them impacted by the work of the undergrounding.

169

00:27:56.200 --> 00:28:13.740

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And I have a follow-up question as well, thank you. So, just to clarify, so that hazard mitigation funding, that's going to be used only as it pertains to the connection from the homeowner on their private property to the undergrounding infrastructure, or will that be used

170

00:28:13.920 --> 00:28:18.120

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: As well, for the cost of the underground infrastructure that's being put in.

171

00:28:18.490 --> 00:28:37.100

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So, it will only pertain to the individual parcel household homeowner that is making that connection. SCE is funding their portion of undergrounding the mains. The grant will only apply to that connection from the individual parcel to the connect point, which Albert identified earlier.

172

00:28:37.950 --> 00:28:41.679

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Thank you, Alicia. Did any of our other panelists have anything to add to that?

173

00:28:44.830 --> 00:29:01.660

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: All right, we'll move on to the next question. Okay, next question is, residents are being asked to make major rebuild and financial decisions without clear information. When will all parties provide a coordinated and publicly accessible timeline, including maps.

174

00:29:01.660 --> 00:29:13.169

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Trenching plans, permit requirements, interim power provisions, and ordinance milestones so homeowners can plan with certainty and avoid redesigns or unexpected conditions later.

175

00:29:14.960 --> 00:29:18.700

Valarie Hernandez, SCE: Morgan, I think I'll take that one. This is Valerie from SCE.

176

00:29:18.790 --> 00:29:30.509

Valarie Hernandez, SCE: Thank you for that question. So we have tentative undergrounding maps available on the website. I'm going to drop those links into the chat. I saw some questions around where the map is located.

177

00:29:30.510 --> 00:29:39.999

Valarie Hernandez, SCE: So, they're on SE.com, our TUG site, but there's also a specific Altadena-specific site that I want to make sure that you all are linked to, so I'll drop that in the chat.

178

00:29:40.350 --> 00:29:49.390

Valarie Hernandez, SCE: But as detailed plans of the infrastructure actually become more available, we'll continue to provide those updates to the impacted customers.

179

00:29:49.390 --> 00:30:06.689

Valarie Hernandez, SCE: And then customers are always welcome to reach out to our dedicated customer support. We've got a phone line set up that is specific to our Altadena residents, but we also, don't forget, we have our one-stop shop in Altadena, and then soon we'll have an Altadena Rebuild Community Hub site.

180

00:30:06.690 --> 00:30:16.639

Valarie Hernandez, SCE: Which will open up, in about a month or so. And so they're always welcome to go and speak with planners, some of our energy advisors, which are customer service representatives.

181

00:30:16.640 --> 00:30:28.780

Valarie Hernandez, SCE: to gather more information. So, as we continue to have more information, we'll make sure that those residents are updated. And I'm gonna drop those chats to those links that I said where it shows the map.

182

00:30:28.960 --> 00:30:32.030

Valarie Hernandez, SCE: And some detailed information into the chat now.

183

00:30:34.080 --> 00:30:39.549

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you so much. And just a follow-up question, maybe for, Public Works.

184

00:30:39.990 --> 00:30:45.530

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I know that during the process of getting, getting a permit, you're asked to,

185

00:30:45.680 --> 00:30:57.880

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: you're asked for a service request for SCE, so, that was kind of explained, but is there any information that's currently posted online that's... that clearly,

186

00:30:57.980 --> 00:31:07.230

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: That clearly states where and what you need to do in order to, to get that permit, once you're through the process of regional planning.

187

00:31:07.640 --> 00:31:12.610

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Yes, absolutely. Once the full building plans are submitted, we provide an agency referral sheet.

188

00:31:12.610 --> 00:31:35.960

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: That lets applicants know what actions they need to take, and that includes the Edison referral, and how to connect with Edison, to get that service request number, along with the water will serve letter, and some other, agency clearances that are required. So an agency referral, there's a sample on our website at recovery.lacounty.gov, and then we'll provide one specific to your project upon submittal.

189

00:31:37.140 --> 00:31:38.199

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Kara.

190

00:31:38.200 --> 00:31:38.850

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Thanks.

191

00:31:38.850 --> 00:31:43.779

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: If anybody has anything to add, go ahead, otherwise I'll move on to the next.

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00:31:43.780 --> 00:32:01.629

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Yeah, if I could, this is Alicia Ramos with Public Works. Kira, I want to add on to, this question is generally about timeline and scheduling,

and so I want to add information there, to the extent we know it, about the grant request. So, again, this grant is currently being applied for.

193

00:32:01.680 --> 00:32:21.000

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So all of this is with the caveat that, of course, if it's approved, if it's awarded to us, then we look at a timeline that right now suggests that funding for those connection points, and again, this is only from the individual parcel to the connection point of the SCE terminus on your lot.

194

00:32:21.220 --> 00:32:38.859

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: We are looking at, right now, Cal OES is telling us, after they go through the application, and then FEMA reviews for approval, we are likely looking at an award date that is somewhere late 2026. So I want to put that out there to let folks know how that could impact the funding component.

195

00:32:39.110 --> 00:32:49.699

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: And also, give a heads up as to the criteria, and this is going to affect different people differently, depending on where you're at in the SCE undergrounding phasing of the work.

196

00:32:50.690 --> 00:32:56.560

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Only after award will those constructions be

197

00:32:56.560 --> 00:33:10.760

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: eligible for the funding. So, let me just paint two situations. If you were to, I don't think anybody necessarily is ready for a connection at this point, but if you were to construct that connection at this point, prior to the award, it would not be eligible.

198

00:33:11.210 --> 00:33:29.169

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Once the award, and again, cross our fingers, everything goes well with it, if the county has awarded that grant, once it's awarded, then construction activities after award would be eligible. So I just want to put that out there for consideration in how you strategize your particular situation.

199

00:33:30.100 --> 00:33:46.020

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you very much, Alicia. So, speaking of strategy, and I appreciate the optimism of the grant happening, but in the case that the FEMA grant doesn't happen, or doesn't cover all costs, how would the county help pay for this?

200

00:33:47.460 --> 00:33:53.450

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So, in the event that we don't get the award, which hopefully that's not the case that we're talking about.

201

00:33:53.450 --> 00:34:07.490

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: This would go down the general process that SCE would have for undergrounding, regardless of what situation it is or what area it's in. Typically, and I invite the SCE folks to join in if I've mentioned anything that's inaccurate.

202

00:34:07.620 --> 00:34:16.820

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: But typically, when an undergrounding is done, if it's a new community, the developer would pick that up. This is obviously not the case. So if they undergrounded in an area.

203

00:34:16.820 --> 00:34:29.780

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: where we already have development, it would be the individual homes that I understand. But I'm also putting this information out there, one, to have SCE back check me on that. This is what we've talked about in our grant application.

204

00:34:30.020 --> 00:34:33.270

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: But also to put out that,

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00:34:33.949 --> 00:34:47.270

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: if we're not awarded the grant, there is not necessarily a Plan B, per se, in that grant. So, we are very optimistic.

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00:34:47.390 --> 00:34:57.159

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: that that grant will be looked at. We understand through the state and the federal government that this is being looked at with high priority, but again, we can't put out that there's any guarantees at this point.

207

00:34:58.430 --> 00:35:13.359

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Alicia. I have a follow-up to that. I understand that, as part of the... and maybe this is more for CPUC as well, but I understand that as part of, CPUC's regulations on undergrounding, and specifically

208

00:35:13.360 --> 00:35:20.629

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Rule 20, there were work credits that were set aside for, undergrounding.

209

00:35:20.630 --> 00:35:38.339

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And I'm wondering if... assuming that the FEMA grant does fall through, and let's hope it doesn't, but assuming it does, are there other sources of funding that can be used, say, work credits from Rule 20 of the CPUC?

210

00:35:38.730 --> 00:35:52.800

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Yeah, let me speak to that first, and I welcome the SCE folks to join in, as you may be aware of other funding sources. One thing I want to acknowledge is the insurance component, and this will affect whether we get the grant or not. If your home

211

00:35:52.940 --> 00:35:54.650

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: is insured.

212

00:35:54.780 --> 00:36:00.240

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: And that insurance coverage covers the connection, your power connection.

213

00:36:00.300 --> 00:36:12.840

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: then you're not eligible for the grant funding, there's no quote-unquote double-dipping, right? If your insurance company, and this is

something that I would encourage folks to have those conversations with your insurance carriers to see what may pertain to you.

214

00:36:12.840 --> 00:36:24.830

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: For some policies, it depends... there's a number of different companies out there, it depends on how they define it, right? With some insurance carriers, if they're going to compensate you like-for-like, meaning you were connected overhead before.

215

00:36:24.920 --> 00:36:27.390

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: If you're not connecting overhead again.

216

00:36:27.580 --> 00:36:33.760

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: It may not be eligible, meaning your insurance company may say, you know, you're not doing it the same way, we don't cover that.

217

00:36:33.810 --> 00:36:48.199

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Some insurance policies may say, look, power connection is essential, whether you go overhead or underground, it's covered. So that's something that, as an individual with your insurance company, you should be having those conversations to make sure you figure out which situation you're in.

218

00:36:48.310 --> 00:36:59.539

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: If you're covered by insurance, if your policy covers you for that connection, I want to reiterate, the grant, you would not be eligible for the grant. That would be quote-unquote, double-dipping, right?

219

00:36:59.540 --> 00:37:09.770

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So that's what I can speak to relative to what we've heard and what we've discussed, relative to the grant. But again, I open it up to the SCE folks or anyone else who may be aware of other funding sources.

220

00:37:10.430 --> 00:37:15.810

Lisa Woon, SCE: Yeah, I'll step in here for you. Thank you, Alicia. And again, I do want to echo thank you to

221

00:37:15.810 --> 00:37:35.440

Lisa Woon, SCE: LA Public Works and Cal OES for the partnership in pursuing this hazard mitigation grant program. Again, we're hearing from Cal OES, there's optimism and confidence that the funding will be secured. So again, I know the timeline is a little bit out there, but we're working diligently with LA County on helping to submit that application.

222

00:37:35.470 --> 00:37:58.639

Lisa Woon, SCE: So I just want to back up a little bit in terms of the service connection costs. Again, under SEA's approved tariff from the CPUC, which is the California Public Utilities Commission, homeowners bear the cost to connect the electrical service at the property line to their home. So this is what Al is referring to, Alicia, in terms of where we're going to be stubbing, and then where, again, the line would connect to the

223

00:37:58.640 --> 00:37:59.920

Lisa Woon, SCE: electrical meter.

224

00:37:59.940 --> 00:38:24.520

Lisa Woon, SCE: Again, this is known as Rule 16, and again, it outlines the requirements for that service line extension. Again, these are the lines that connect from SCE's distribution lines to the customer's electrical meters, and this is necessary to provide the utility service. And again, per the PUC, the connection from SCE's underground distribution line, that's to the service, to the

225

00:38:24.520 --> 00:38:26.999

Lisa Woon, SCE: Electrical panel is responsible

226

00:38:27.140 --> 00:38:46.849

Lisa Woon, SCE: customers responsible for that. So that's going to include the cost for trenching, that's going to be installing conduit underground, and then any wires that are connected to SCE's distribution line. So we know that homeowners have faced significant hardships, and that's why we are diligent about pursuing these alternative funding opportunities to fund this expense.

227

00:38:46.850 --> 00:38:49.800

Lisa Woon, SCE: Again, we have the Cal OES funding with FEMA,

228

00:38:49.800 --> 00:38:58.040

Lisa Woon, SCE: But we're also exploring ways to talk to our commission about how we can use certain allowances through Rule 16 to offset

229

00:38:58.040 --> 00:39:21.069

Lisa Woon, SCE: the cost for customers, to be able to underground that service line. So, again, that's something that we have to submit to our commission. It hasn't been done yet. We plan to do that by the end of the year. And again, it doesn't guarantee it, because we do need to get permission for our commission, but we are going to be looking and exploring that. I think another thing that if you were on Monday's Supervisor Barger's community meeting.

230

00:39:21.070 --> 00:39:41.069

Lisa Woon, SCE: I know that the supervisor's office is looking at how that new funding district will allow to find up some of that funding for the service line connection. So, again, we were optimistic to hear that. We'll be talking to the supervisor's office a little bit more on that, and how we can work through some of those details. Again, so hopefully that

231

00:39:41.070 --> 00:39:45.129

Lisa Woon, SCE: complement some of the things Alicia had provided and wanted to address some of those things.

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00:39:46.130 --> 00:39:52.100

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Thank you, Lisa. I have a couple follow-ups, but was there anybody else that wanted to chime in before I throw those out there?

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00:39:53.270 --> 00:40:10.529

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Great, this is to anybody speaking on the same issue. Two quick questions. If someone is underinsured to the degree that it won't pay for the full \$8,000 to \$10,000, Alicia, is there some sort of plan in place to... are they completely ineligible, or can they be eligible for that partial?

234

00:40:11.080 --> 00:40:27.020

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: I think those are the areas of gray that we would certainly want to document as best we can. A good part of what is going to be required for the rebate program, and let me put some more structure to this, it would be a rebate program. So.

235

00:40:27.450 --> 00:40:44.300

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: homeowners have the responsibility to connect to their service point, and that would be something that you would work with your contractor to put that in place. There will be application that you would submit. We will do workshops within Public Works Building Safety. We'll make sure that when you submit your plans, that

236

00:40:44.300 --> 00:41:02.829

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Part of that review process for approval of your plans will also be advising you of the program, making sure you've got all the clarity on documentation. We will host work sessions so that both contractors and homeowners can come to make sure that they are doing this work to connect in compliance so that there's no

237

00:41:02.830 --> 00:41:07.630

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: End-of-the-road surprises, but you were complying with all the necessary documentation.

238

00:41:07.820 --> 00:41:18.759

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: That would be part of the documentation, what we would want. If you're in a unique situation where you were underinsured, probably shouldn't even say unique, this may be a very prevalent situation, if you are underinsured, that we document

239

00:41:18.860 --> 00:41:38.539

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: how that is established, so that we can get you hopefully recognized and eligible for funding. The point is to help fund this work, because there is not funding for it. You'd want to make sure that you can document that your homeowner insurance is either not covering it or somehow underinsured, so that we can help you get the assistance you need.

240

00:41:39.450 --> 00:41:55.390

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I appreciate that. We're going to kind of bust through questions, because we really want to get to the Q&As that are coming in, and they're coming in pretty fast and furious, but the last thing I'll ask, and Alicia, I'm not sure of you or someone else, and we're leaning heavy on you, so thank you, I know that

241

00:41:55.400 --> 00:42:01.950

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I can tell you, anybody that I, I say there's a rebate, a rebate coming.

242

00:42:02.250 --> 00:42:19.949

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: They can't afford in this moment to cover it, so waiting until 2026, or a rebate coming in. Is there any philanthropic or otherwise that anybody on the screen can recommend for someone who simply can't even afford to connect electric to their home and then wait for a rebate?

243

00:42:20.760 --> 00:42:37.979

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: I think that's an extremely important question, and it's one that we are looking at with our Chief Executive Office as part of the narrative we're submitting for the grant program. We are working with the Chief Executive Office to understand and identify how we can structure some component

244

00:42:38.060 --> 00:42:48.180

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: to this program that will identify some criteria for folks who simply cannot make that. There just isn't the out-of-pocket ability up front.

245

00:42:48.180 --> 00:43:05.070

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: to carry the cost, even though it is a rebate program, you are identifying something that we realize could be an obstacle, which is there just isn't the funding up front out of pocket. So, we do not have that completely identified. Again, we're working with our CEO to make sure that our grant application is as complete as possible.

246

00:43:05.150 --> 00:43:24.999

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: to demonstrate the different categories and concerns, so I just want to acknowledge that that concern has been brought up. We are looking to put some sort of structure or language within the narrative that can hopefully give us an avenue. It will probably be predicated, though, on, again, substantiating the inability to pay up front.

247

00:43:25.000 --> 00:43:34.139

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So, again, we're working on it, but until that grant is submitted, I can't speak any further to whether or not, or how we've identified it, or that it is identified.

248

00:43:35.490 --> 00:43:41.680

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, and I suppose before we leave this subject, and I don't know if we're going on to new ones, we'll see what comes in, but...

249

00:43:41.780 --> 00:43:50.729

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Just, as of recent, in a recent letter to Governor Newsom, SCE indicated that homeowners are responsible for trenching and undergrounding. This is what we've already covered.

250

00:43:50.750 --> 00:44:10.300

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: At an estimated cost of \$8,000 to \$10,000 to reconnect. This estimate does not include additional expenses, especially for standing homes, which may face further costs related to relocating electrical patterns, relocating... rerouting conduit, repairing driveways, landscaping, or other hardscape disrupted by the work.

251

00:44:10.500 --> 00:44:19.569

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Is this correct? And please break down the estimated cost homeowners should expect to incur beyond what we've been speaking to.

252

00:44:23.040 --> 00:44:39.719

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So I'm not sure if the SCE team members want to speak to how the 8 and 10,000 was put together, but let me speak to how we are addressing it in the grant application. We recognize exactly what you've pointed out, Nick, or what this question points out, which is we've got different categories.

253

00:44:39.720 --> 00:44:48.849

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: of situations. For those homes that are building from ground up, you're going to have a very different circumstance that you're constructing through than you are for an existing home that may be going...

254

00:44:48.850 --> 00:44:58.970

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: pending how your panel is located, is the straightest connection through a driveway, through landscape? What are those different materials? So.

255

00:44:59.110 --> 00:45:10.840

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: as we put together our own cost estimate, we're trying to validate. Now, what SCE put out there, \$8,000 to \$10,000, was predicated on certain conditions, right? This is just to trench, this is just to put the line in. We're not

256

00:45:11.070 --> 00:45:25.620

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Indicating what kind of condition this cost would be encountering. So we are putting together a cost estimate with the help of some construction consultants to say, look, give us a more typical situation.

257

00:45:25.620 --> 00:45:40.049

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Starting with, likely, a standing existing home that will go through some type of material disturbance, demolition, and then reinstall. So we don't have that cost. We will be getting that probably in the next week.

258

00:45:40.340 --> 00:45:51.420

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: And we will see where our cost lines up, but we are anticipating that there's going to be additional costs on top of what we heard. And again, I open it to SCE if you want to elaborate.

259

00:45:53.370 --> 00:46:00.350

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Thanks, Alicia. I might turn it over to Albert. My understanding, of this estimated,

260

00:46:00.350 --> 00:46:22.190

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: \$8,000 to \$10,000 is that it was based on a 35-foot trench using 3-inch conduit, but it would also be using an SCE union contractor as well. So, Albert, feel free to correct me if I'm wrong there, and I think you're correct. So it's, again, assuming the 35-foot trench and 3-inch conduit using union labor.

261

00:46:22.990 --> 00:46:24.349

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Albert, did I get that correct?

262

00:46:24.510 --> 00:46:26.299

Albert Diaz, SCE: You got it right. Thanks, Rochelle.

263

00:46:29.100 --> 00:46:29.800

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Right?

264

00:46:30.110 --> 00:46:35.939

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you. I'm gonna switch over. Do you want to cover the next one? Sure, okay.

265

00:46:37.000 --> 00:46:42.389

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I know we have a lot of questions coming in, so we're just going to go to the next pre-written question here.

266

00:46:42.530 --> 00:46:54.329

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Who will receive a right of entry request, and will SCE clarify before signing whether the ROE agreements authorize trenching, permanent equipment placement, or easement recorded on title?

267

00:46:56.430 --> 00:47:10.790

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: The people receiving ROE, requests are going to be the private properties that we have identified that require an easement. So there will be, portions of

268

00:47:10.990 --> 00:47:21.990

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Our... our circuit that will be installed in public right-of-way, or within the street, so we would not need to approach property... some property owners for those rights.

269

00:47:22.090 --> 00:47:26.699

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: And I'm sorry, can you repeat, that question again?

270

00:47:28.390 --> 00:47:29.860

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: So...

271

00:47:31.310 --> 00:47:37.869

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Who will receive right of entry requests? I think you clarified that it's folks who are on,

272

00:47:37.950 --> 00:47:45.840

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: who are on private streets. I guess I can ask a clarifying question there as well. So, if you are on...

273

00:47:45.920 --> 00:48:00.540

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: If you are on a public road, and SE is in the public right away, are you setting your pad-mounted transformers on private property, and then would folks that are on a public road possibly be receiving an ROE for those?

274

00:48:03.200 --> 00:48:12.280

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: so... Sorry, the question's a little bit confusing. So, if we are installing,

275

00:48:12.710 --> 00:48:22.020

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: equipment within the public right-of-way, and a piece of equipment happens to... where we need to place it, like, for a transformer, if there might be some

276

00:48:22.140 --> 00:48:38.160

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: some... a portion of the transformer that's going onto private property, but there's also a part of it that's in the public street. We would still be approaching the property owner where a portion of that... of that equipment is on their property and requesting an easement right for that.

277

00:48:38.900 --> 00:48:53.889

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, yeah, thanks, because in the photos that you showed, you have a pad-mounted transformer sort of next to a mailbox that's, clearly on someone's private property. So that's what I was clarifying, because it looks like your trenches are in the public right-of-way.

278

00:48:54.060 --> 00:49:03.420

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Yes, I think we try as much as possible to avoid private properties, just for... to impact homeowners...

279

00:49:03.560 --> 00:49:08.199

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: areas as the least amount that we can, but we're...

280

00:49:08.310 --> 00:49:26.659

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: we have less space, and we need to try, and we need to ask for areas. Sometimes, maybe the area might be split between public right-of-way and private property, and in some cases, like you mentioned, there's a lot of private streets within Altadena, so we'd need to, request easements over the private street.

281

00:49:28.050 --> 00:49:33.040

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, and, I'm sure a lot of people are wondering, so...

282

00:49:34.040 --> 00:49:47.779

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: You mentioned that there's a \$500 compensation for signing the ROE, and then you mentioned that there's also compensation for the easements that are taken. How are you determining the compensation for the easements?

283

00:49:47.780 --> 00:49:57.290

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: So, the easement compensation will be based on sales comparables that are composed of land values that are taken from both before and after the fires.

284

00:49:57.360 --> 00:50:11.850

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: There's a percentage of value that's assigned to the easement area that takes existing factors of that area into consideration to help determine the percentage. So, factors that affect that percentage is

285

00:50:11.850 --> 00:50:23.659

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: what is that easement area used for? So, is it a private street? Is it a setback area on the home? Is it along a driveway, or within a buildable area?

286

00:50:24.730 --> 00:50:40.659

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: we take all of those... or all those factors are taken into consideration when we're looking at the easement value. We try to choose the areas to be the least impactful as possible to the property owners, and definitely avoid any buildable area or where

287

00:50:40.690 --> 00:50:58.210

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: the future home's footprint might be. So, we're trying to stay within the private road where normally you would just be driving over, or maybe if it's private road that you walk across, you're just walking over. We don't want to impact people where they might have plans to rebuild something specific.

288

00:50:58.390 --> 00:51:12.870

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: So from there, when we use these values, we make an offer to the property owner based on the sales comparables that we have pulled, and it's determined off of the square footage that the easement is using.

289

00:51:14.500 --> 00:51:16.120

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And then...

290

00:51:16.490 --> 00:51:29.120

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: If a homeowner is refusing to sign an ROE, then, do you have a mechanism to compel the homeowner, or to take an easement on the homeowner's property in order to complete your project?

291

00:51:29.540 --> 00:51:47.060

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: So, if they're refusing an ROE, that's when we'd have to take it back to the project team and review that property and how it fits into the entire, entire plan. Because certain properties might affect the project differently. If we're at the beginning or at the end of the line.

292

00:51:47.280 --> 00:52:06.220

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: it might have a different impact than, as I'm sure you could imagine, in the middle of a block. If we're... if we're trenching down an entire block and the middle property, does not want to sign an ROE, that's where we have to really take it back to the team and see what possibilities there might be.

293

00:52:06.220 --> 00:52:17.799

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: If redesign might be possible. But we really try to work with the property owner as much as possible to get them comfortable with the project so that we can move forward, because

294

00:52:17.800 --> 00:52:28.949

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Ultimately, we're trying to support the community, build back stronger, safer, and, we want to work together with everyone to make that happen.

295

00:52:30.600 --> 00:52:50.280

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Thank you. We're going to be working toward the immunities questions shortly, and I'm not sure if you're receiving them, but I do want to point out we have both Fernando and Michael that were invited and are not presenters, but our panelists. Is there anything you wanted to add, or a follow-up question, either you, Michael, or Fernando?

296

00:52:51.660 --> 00:52:56.039

Fernando Villa: You know, I have... thank you very much, Nick. I appreciate it. Fernando Villa here.

297

00:52:56.180 --> 00:53:13.839

Fernando Villa: I'm, this is... I'm not an owner, I am not, you know, I'm not, impacted by the... by the fires, and... and I very much, am supportive of any measure that can be taken to alleviate, the conditions of the homeowners and their ability to get their homes back, and

298

00:53:13.840 --> 00:53:29.290

Fernando Villa: the infrastructure put in place, and to make them whole as soon as possible and as much as possible, so I just wanted to make that clear. I just had a handful of questions, and I'll try to be quick here, because I know the audience must have many other questions as well. I want to focus a little bit on the

299

00:53:29.290 --> 00:53:33.999

Fernando Villa: process that SE has undertaken to Underground, which, by the way, I'm a big supporter of undergrounding.

300

00:53:34.000 --> 00:53:49.350

Fernando Villa: In my land use world, I'm a real estate land use and environmental lawyer. Undergrounding is very much, as SE knows better than just about anybody except other utilities, the trend that cities and CPUC and other agencies

301

00:53:49.460 --> 00:53:54.190

Fernando Villa: want to see undertaken for... not only for fire safety, but other reasons, aesthetics, etc.

302

00:53:54.200 --> 00:54:13.130

Fernando Villa: So, a handful of questions. One, I am curious, and perhaps, I don't know if this should be directed to Lisa or Elle or another of the team members of SE, and really helpful presentation, by the way, by the team, but what has, and perhaps this has already been addressed, I may have just missed it, what is prompting

303

00:54:13.130 --> 00:54:16.270

Fernando Villa: The acquisition program and, frankly, the undergrounding.

304

00:54:16.270 --> 00:54:26.369

Fernando Villa: And, you know, and what is, you know, what's initiated this? Maybe the answers are obvious, and what is its overall timeline for completion, if I may ask?

305

00:54:31.310 --> 00:54:39.799

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Fernando, can I get some clarification? So you're saying what is prompting the undergrounding, or are you asking about what's prompting the ROEs and easement requests?

306

00:54:39.800 --> 00:54:50.059

Fernando Villa: Well, it's... it's... and maybe, yeah, let me be clear, and I apologize, if I... if I wasn't, so, no, it's... what I'm saying is, you have... you have an overall undergrounding program, right, and that's...

307

00:54:50.060 --> 00:54:50.470

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Hmm.

308

00:54:50.470 --> 00:55:07.859

Fernando Villa: and you're undergrounding 63 or so miles, which is terrific, by the way. But the ROE and the easement elements of it are just facets, important facets, but only parts of that undergrounding program. So I guess what I'm... what I... what I'm getting at is.

309

00:55:07.860 --> 00:55:18.239

Fernando Villa: what was the catalyst, or what are the reasons for the undergrounding program? What got... what is it... why has SE embarked upon that program?

310

00:55:19.590 --> 00:55:44.409

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Yeah, great question. I mean, I think there was a lot of encouragement, obviously, by the state, you know, folks like the governor's office, who really wanted to see us building back resilient, and I think that we, you know, obviously agreed with that as well. In addition, in our high wildfire areas, there's, definitely a benefit to going underground, as well as, installing additional wildfire

311

00:55:44.410 --> 00:55:47.029

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Mitigation measures to reduce the risk.

312

00:55:47.030 --> 00:55:57.430

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: of ignition. And as well, you know, in a lot of our, newly constructed communities, there is undergrounding in, in a lot of the areas.

313

00:55:57.430 --> 00:56:14.860

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Unfortunately, we are, building back, like, almost like new construction, right, where there's total rebuilds. So in those areas, we, determined that it did make sense for us to do undergrounding in those areas. Does that help to answer your question? And feel free to chime in if I missed anything there.

314

00:56:15.650 --> 00:56:31.860

Lisa Woon, SCE: I think you covered it, Rochelle. I think I maybe want to... Fernando, thank you for your comments and for your questions. Wanted to maybe address the timing issue, right? So again, in our governor's response letter, again, him asking for SC's plans on our undergrounding effort, we did commit to 63 miles in Alcadena.

315

00:56:31.860 --> 00:56:39.090

Lisa Woon, SCE: Now, the timing depends on a number of factors, right? We've made our commitment, and we've been judicious about looking at our own internal processes.

316

00:56:39.090 --> 00:56:41.299

Lisa Woon, SCE: To figure out how do we underground faster.

317

00:56:41.300 --> 00:56:59.130

Lisa Woon, SCE: Typically, undergrounding takes 2-3 years. In some of the areas you all know well, particularly on the gorge circuit, we've been able to complete some of that underground civil construction in a matter of months. So again, we're really looking at our own processes to make sure we're going and building faster and more resiliently, knowing we want to minimize

318

00:56:59.130 --> 00:57:22.949

Lisa Woon, SCE: the disruption to customers. It does rely on us to partner with many entities, LA County Public Works, the Department of Regional Planning, to get the right

permits in place, to make sure we're, again, minimizing the disruption to customers. So, in terms of the timeline, I know Valerie had put in the chat, or as well in our presentation, we have a proposed undergrounding plan. Again, we've been able to identify project start years.

319

00:57:22.950 --> 00:57:26.090

Lisa Woon, SCE: Both for 2025 and 2026 beyond.

320

00:57:26.090 --> 00:57:50.640

Lisa Woon, SCE: So we are, again, working with external partners to figure out how do we coordinate the planning? How do we make sure that the roads that are closed, the roads that we're trenching, that we're able to have simultaneous work that's being done to make sure you're building your community back more resiliently and faster. So, Fernando, I'm sorry, I don't have necessarily completion timelines, but we are committed at SCE, once we've identified the scoping and the plans.

321

00:57:50.640 --> 00:57:58.189

Lisa Woon, SCE: to share that with LA County, to make that publicly available, and then to work on the particular timelines that we've demonstrated

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00:57:58.300 --> 00:58:21.849

Lisa Woon, SCE: And are undergoing plans to be as expeditious as possible. So, some of the things that the state has done, including some of the permitting exemptions that they've, kind of eliminated that red tape, has been helpful. Again, coordinating with other parties, like Caltrans, particularly in our Malibu area, has facilitated the real building faster. So, I do hope that answers some of the questions, Fernando, but please feel free to,

323

00:58:21.850 --> 00:58:24.869

Lisa Woon, SCE: Let me know if there's additional things you'd like me to clarify.

324

00:58:24.870 --> 00:58:42.459

Fernando Villa: Oh, thank you so much, Lisa. That's very, very helpful. Thank you, that's very informative. I do just have a couple of follow-up questions, and I'll try to be brief. The, so there isn't... it sounds as if, and I... please know I'm new to this, and so I'm sort of the new kid on the block learning as I go, but, I take it there is no...

325

00:58:42.520 --> 00:59:00.099

Fernando Villa: agency directive, whether it's from CPUC, whether it's from Caltrans, whether it's from the county, or any other agency that is directing your utility, SCE, to undertake this underground program. This is... this is something that SCE is doing voluntarily for all the reasons that you described?

326

00:59:00.510 --> 00:59:24.290

Lisa Woon, SCE: Yes. Now, again, Rochelle had mentioned, again, some of the areas considered our high fire risk area. So, again, in areas that are designated both by SCE and the CPUC, I think it's the high fire threat district, we are looking across our service area, how do we do the proper wildfire mitigation? That may be covered conductor, that may be targeted undergrounding. Both those tools, among the other things, like vegetation management.

327

00:59:24.410 --> 00:59:45.069

Lisa Woon, SCE: allow us to be able to mitigate any ignition that is caused by utility equipment. So, again, this is something that, after the fires, we understood that we want to rebuild resiliently and faster, so we made a commitment to do the total undergrounding of 63 miles in El Tadena, and then 90 miles in the Malibu and surrounding neighborhood areas.

328

00:59:45.280 --> 01:00:09.180

Fernando Villa: Well, that's terrific. I understand, but I haven't seen, in all candor, Lisa, that the county is considering adopting an ordinance that would regulate underground facilities. I don't know what its terms are. Again, this is what I'm hearing, I'm learning secondhand. Are you aware of any proposed ordinance that would seek to regulate undergrounding in this area, and perhaps other areas, too, of the county and unincorporated territories?

329

01:00:09.230 --> 01:00:21.059

Fernando Villa: And if so, as and when, or whether or not you know the terms yet, does SE intend to or anticipate or assume that it would have to comply with the terms and conditions of that undergrounding ordinance?

330

01:00:21.300 --> 01:00:45.370

Lisa Woon, SCE: Yeah, so maybe I'll take the first pass here, then if any of my colleagues from LA County want to step in here, particularly because this is the undergrounding ordinance that would be issued by the county, so we would be complying, with the county's ordinance. So, yes, we are aware there has been some discussion about a particular undergrounding ordinance in LA County, and so we have been working with them to try to inform, again, what does that ordinance look like.

331

01:00:45.370 --> 01:00:53.929

Lisa Woon, SCE: Including some of the proposed undergrounding. Where are you going to remove poles, for example, to make sure that the alignment of our plans and undergrounding will be facilitated?

332

01:00:53.930 --> 01:01:03.390

Lisa Woon, SCE: So, Fernando, I believe we are aware. Do you want to share, again, we've been in some discussions, but I'll also welcome colleagues from LA County to maybe, complement.

333

01:01:03.440 --> 01:01:04.600

Lisa Woon, SCE: My response here.

334

01:01:04.900 --> 01:01:15.269

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Right, thank you so much, Lisa. I agree. I think that, you know, obviously the undergrounding ordinance, we have not yet seen the language yet, so,

335

01:01:15.270 --> 01:01:37.400

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: you know, I think it's a matter of... we continue to work with the county and try to be... work in close collaboration and try to coordinate in undergrounding as much as possible, so when the ordinance is proposed, I'm sure that we'll have an opportunity to collaborate with the county, and we'll do everything we can to try to make it as smooth and seamless as of a process as possible.

336

01:01:38.010 --> 01:01:48.949

Fernando Villa: Very good, very good. Just one or two more questions about SCE, and just say I have a couple of the county. So SCE team, I, I, I appreciate that, I think it was,

337

01:01:49.130 --> 01:02:01.639

Fernando Villa: It was Vanessa who was describing how an easement would be valued, or appraised in terms of value, which is comparable sales, and that makes a ton of sense. A couple of questions, perhaps this should be directed to you, Vanessa.

338

01:02:01.830 --> 01:02:25.980

Fernando Villa: normally, if for any reason... I mean, typically, you have the power of condemnation, as all utilities in California do, and normally when a condemning authority is seeking to acquire, or a property, it has to... it's regulated by state law, and no need to get into that, I'm not an imminent domain lawyer, but it's, from what I understand, the thing to be acquired.

339

01:02:25.980 --> 01:02:29.570

Fernando Villa: Whether it's an easement, a fee interest, whatever the interest may be.

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01:02:29.570 --> 01:02:41.439

Fernando Villa: has to be appraised, at fair market value, and... and if... and... and from what I understand, the owner, or the... that has the interest that the utility seeks to acquire.

341

01:02:41.440 --> 01:02:53.809

Fernando Villa: would also be entitled to have its property appraised by a separate appraisal, and normally it's the condemning authority that would have to pay for the owner's, the cost of the owner's appraisal

342

01:02:53.880 --> 01:03:05.400

Fernando Villa: up to a cap, and I forget what the cap is now. So I was... I was going to ask, is that process, is that a process that you, anticipate, undertaking with each homeowner to arrive at fair market value?

343

01:03:05.400 --> 01:03:24.179

Fernando Villa: I'm assuming most, if not all, owners would want, of course, to... would be interested in their self-interest and yours to have that easement done, but is that the process, that appraisal process I just described? What the process that the SE will employ, and if not, I'm just curious, what are the processes would be, and why not?

344

01:03:24.860 --> 01:03:39.120

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: So, we are going to be... the first offer to the property owner will be based on the sales comparables that I mentioned earlier, where we would be providing somewhat of a desktop analysis of values, that were taken

345

01:03:39.700 --> 01:03:46.660

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Prior fire, pre-fire and post-fire, and then we use sort of an average of that, to

346

01:03:46.960 --> 01:03:59.530

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: to propose an offer to the property owner. If we cannot agree, like you mentioned, the appraisal process would be part of, the condemnation proceedings.

347

01:03:59.810 --> 01:04:07.750

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: So, SCE is... Part... is a privately owned company, so it does not... Have that...

348

01:04:08.120 --> 01:04:19.300

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: requirement to reimburse the property owner for a certain amount for the independent appraisal. However, we would provide a third-party appraisal.

349

01:04:19.360 --> 01:04:35.579

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: that the property owner would be able to review and... and have as part of that process, to... that would determine the value. So, an independent appraisal cost would not be covered by SCE in that... in that circumstance.

350

01:04:36.120 --> 01:04:39.679

Fernando Villa: Okay, very good. And like I said, I'm not...

351

01:04:39.680 --> 01:04:40.030

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Sure enough.

352

01:04:40.030 --> 01:04:40.830

Fernando Villa: the room.

353

01:04:41.040 --> 01:04:50.629

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: I hate to interrupt, Fernando, but we'll probably come back to you. I just want to see if Michael wants to chime in, and I really want to get to the audience questions, but I really appreciate your perspective.

354

01:04:50.980 --> 01:05:04.880

Michael Saltzman | Ennead Architects: No, thank you guys. I really want to let it go to the audience questions. I mean, where I've been is really listening to homeowners. I have an infrastructure development background, and so I was just trying... been trying to look through

355

01:05:04.880 --> 01:05:25.750

Michael Saltzman | Ennead Architects: understand what each property owner is going through, and trying to look through the lens of this experience I've had in the past from development. So, I think I would like to leave it to the homeowners, but I think what we'd like to come back to is the question of coordination. I think that there's been a few things mentioned about timing and coordination, and it does appear that there's,

356

01:05:25.750 --> 01:05:46.010

Michael Saltzman | Ennead Architects: there's not the level of coordination between all the different elements, whether it be the financing and the actual infrastructure construction that you might see on a new project, for instance, a new large development project, that this is from an infrastructure standpoint. So I'll just leave it at that, and I'd like to leave it over to hear from the Q&A from the people who's, you know, who were affected.

357

01:05:47.190 --> 01:05:48.790

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: I appreciate that, Michael.

358

01:05:49.210 --> 01:05:59.820

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Alright, so I'm gonna give one final question from Pri, and then we're gonna dive into all of the audience questions. This is a pretty direct one. I'm gonna ask all the parties,

359

01:05:59.930 --> 01:06:12.789

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Commit... would you be willing to commit clearly and in writing to protecting fire-impacted residents from new rates, fees, or profit recovery tied to undergrounding, including

360

01:06:12.790 --> 01:06:25.780

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: through CPUC rate higher filings, SCE funds, or county ordinances, so that this work is not used to generate return or shift costs onto survivors.

361

01:06:27.900 --> 01:06:28.350

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Yeah, I guess.

362

01:06:28.350 --> 01:06:30.100

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: How could... Go ahead.

363

01:06:30.450 --> 01:06:33.780

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: I'm happy to respond to that question, and that's a good one.

364

01:06:33.790 --> 01:06:42.070

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Just wanted to share a few things. So, according to our 2025 general rate case decision.

365

01:06:42.070 --> 01:06:57.279

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: The current rate case will provide funding for more than, as part of our wildfire mitigation funding, for more than 1,600 miles of covered conductor, as well as 212 miles of targeted undergrounding to protect our customers and communities from the,

366

01:06:57.280 --> 01:07:02.440

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Wildfire risk and reduce the need for public safety power shutoffs.

367

01:07:02.450 --> 01:07:15.290

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: In terms of, like, the cost, and I know this question comes up as well, so I know it wasn't specifically asked, but I'll just address this as well. The cost for liability claims related to wildfire losses

368

01:07:15.290 --> 01:07:24.090

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: are not part of SCE's 2025 general rate case. For liability claims, SCE would access its wildfire self-insurance.

369

01:07:24.090 --> 01:07:36.210

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: and the AB 1054 State Wildfire Fund. Any costs exceeding dollars from the Wildfire Fund may be recovered in rates if the CPUC determines those costs are reasonable and appropriate.

370

01:07:36.210 --> 01:07:54.729

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Also, of note, recent legislation, AB 254, specifically had, prohibited electrical corporations from including in their equity-based, rate their share of \$6 billion in fire risk mitigation capital expenditures.

371

01:07:54.740 --> 01:07:57.159

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: So, hopefully that helps to address,

372

01:07:57.160 --> 01:08:00.819

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: It does. I would like CPUC to chime in, then.

373

01:08:01.030 --> 01:08:03.240

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: In response to what you've just said.

374

01:08:06.420 --> 01:08:08.790

Hope Christman - CPUC: Hi, I'll go ahead and take that.

375

01:08:08.790 --> 01:08:09.350

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: 13.

376

01:08:09.379 --> 01:08:19.089

Hope Christman - CPUC: With regards to, SCE wanting to do any recoveries, anything that they decide that they want to recover, they would have to file with the CPUC.

377

01:08:19.339 --> 01:08:34.559

Hope Christman - CPUC: And as they said, those costs would have to be approved by the Commission, but before doing so, there would be plenty of opportunities for public comment to weigh in and decide whether or not, or to provide your opinions on whether or not what they're asking for is just and reasonable.

378

01:08:35.790 --> 01:08:43.539

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you. How would we be aware of them filing to you? What triggers us to know that we can submit public comment?

379

01:08:45.779 --> 01:08:53.869

Hope Christman - CPUC: All filings that are submitted through the CPUC are on our docket calendar on our website, and I'd be happy to share that link with you later.

380

01:08:54.210 --> 01:09:07.729

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I appreciate that. Thank you, Hope. In the interim, any costs that, are incurred, by SCE, are they able, in the interim, before it's determined whether those costs are,

381

01:09:07.899 --> 01:09:20.010

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: are justified, in their filing to the CPUC, are those costs able to be passed along as, increased rates, even temporarily on ratepayers?

382

01:09:22.040 --> 01:09:29.540

Hope Christman - CPUC: Sce's rates are approved by the CPUC, and they're set for their current general rate case through the year 2028.

383

01:09:29.720 --> 01:09:40.439

Hope Christman - CPUC: So there wouldn't be any changes to rates, and they are required to charge customers the rates that are in their tariffs. They cannot waive from their tariffs without approval from the CPOC.

384

01:09:42.150 --> 01:09:52.019

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, so I'm gonna have Morgan start us off on questions from the audience, but let me let you know what's been going on. We've had an incredible team taking in your

385

01:09:52.020 --> 01:10:05.170

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: nearly 200 questions, they've been putting them in buckets, they've been reducing and combining so we don't have redundancy, and they've been identifying ones that were already answered. So if you don't hear your direct question.

386

01:10:05.170 --> 01:10:16.390

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: put forward, know that that's the process it's gone through. Gratitude to those in the other room. It's a whole team putting them together, and... and we'll dive right in. Go ahead, Morgan.

387

01:10:16.710 --> 01:10:19.630

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, so...

388

01:10:19.910 --> 01:10:26.749

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Yep, this is a question from Q&A. The most threatening and destructive fires in our area originate in the foothills.

389

01:10:26.930 --> 01:10:41.279

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Yet the proposed undergrounding of power lines does not address the source of our worst fires. Why is the recent fire used to rationalize and promote the undergrounding initiative? Why not include the transmission lines in this effort?

390

01:10:45.220 --> 01:10:47.949

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I assume that would be directed at SE.

391

01:10:50.690 --> 01:11:06.949

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Yeah, if I could, call on Lisa to help, with this question. Right now we are, doing extensive wildfire mitigation. If you look at our rebuilding map, there is extensive, undergrounding in the, higher fire risk areas as well.

392

01:11:06.960 --> 01:11:14.209

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: And currently, we do not, unfortunately, have plans to underground the, transmission lines in this area.

393

01:11:14.980 --> 01:11:34.419

Lisa Woon, SCE: Yeah, that... thanks, Rochelle, that's correct. We do not have plans to enter ground transmission. There's obviously different specifications for transmission towers, which, again, we work with the PUC and specific divisions there to make sure we are monitoring the transmission, we are maintaining it, and as well, including, like, some vegetation clearance, so...

394

01:11:34.420 --> 01:11:43.590

Lisa Woon, SCE: Again, we have operating manuals for our transmission, which, again, we go to the CPUC to make sure that they're updated and in agreement with their review and approval.

395

01:11:45.120 --> 01:11:47.139

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I have a quick follow-up, so...

396

01:11:47.590 --> 01:12:05.969

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And I think Albert noted that there's the transmission lines, and then there's the 16K voltage lines, and then there's the lines that are delivered to customers after the transformers. So, are the 16K lines also being undergrounded?

397

01:12:07.000 --> 01:12:23.620

Albert Diaz, SCE: Yes, the 16,000 volt lines are actually part of our distribution system, so they are, being undergrounded, and that's... so... so the 16,000 volt lines go to the transformers, and then from the transformers, they get reduced to 120 slash 240 volts.

398

01:12:23.620 --> 01:12:27.470

Albert Diaz, SCE: And then that's what feeds your, from the transformer to your home.

399

01:12:27.470 --> 01:12:30.730

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And all homes run off of 120-240 volt.

400

01:12:31.030 --> 01:12:41.159

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, so can we assume, then, that the lines that are running, like, let's say, uplake, because that's kind of the main thoroughfare, are those lines also being under-branded?

401

01:12:42.530 --> 01:12:54.549

Albert Diaz, SCE: I would have to look at the specific plan for those, specific lines, but those lines are 16,000 vote lines, so they can be undergrounded. I don't know that they are on the plan or not, but they are 16,000 vote lines.

402

01:12:58.110 --> 01:12:59.480

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Alright,

403

01:12:59.870 --> 01:13:08.970

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I do have a follow-up question, but I'm going to guess that one of our smart audience is going to ask the same thing about the towers, so I'll let that be for now.

404

01:13:09.080 --> 01:13:19.650

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: When a community finds an electric utility undergrounding plan is unaffordable, are there any remedies or actions the community can take to alter or stop the plan?

405

01:13:21.190 --> 01:13:25.469

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I'm not even sure who to direct that to, but I'd love to know an answer.

406

01:13:30.970 --> 01:13:46.310

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: I'll just speak on behalf of Edison. We can certainly take that feedback from the community if there's a strong desire to not underground. You know, so far, you know, we've had that, we've had, you know, some feedback along those lines.

407

01:13:46.310 --> 01:14:04.689

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: But we're happy to take it back and try to address it. I think, you know, our plans are to underground, in this area, you know, the 63 miles that we committed to, and want to remain committed to that as well, in the interest of the community. So, I'm happy to take that feedback. Not sure if there's

408

01:14:04.690 --> 01:14:09.770

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Anything else, unfortunately, I can offer just right at this moment, but I can... we can definitely get back to you.

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01:14:10.040 --> 01:14:16.959

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: It feels like we might have covered a bit when we talk about ROEs, and that might be a device that could start that conversation.

410

01:14:17.210 --> 01:14:19.319

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: But thank you for that.

411

01:14:19.490 --> 01:14:36.370

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Go ahead, Morgan. So, for homeowners who complete their rebuild before the street is scheduled for undergrounding, how will electric service be provided in the interim? And I'm also gonna just ask these other questions as well, because I think they're relevant.

412

01:14:37.250 --> 01:14:48.309

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: So, can you please explain how will the undergrounding project affect our home rebuild? And what happens if our home is completed with overhead before undergrounding is complete?

413

01:14:48.550 --> 01:14:54.400

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Will SEE handle the conversion, or will we, the homeowner, be responsible for the cost?

414

01:14:56.310 --> 01:15:05.230

Albert Diaz, SCE: I think I could take, this question, and if I miss any part of it, please, let me know. So I think the first part was, what happens if...

415

01:15:05.390 --> 01:15:25.160

Albert Diaz, SCE: the home or the rebuild is completed before the undergrounding is completed in the area. So we will feed you, with, either from a nearby overhead distribution system or a generator. So if your home is completed, you will have power

416

01:15:26.480 --> 01:15:35.720

Albert Diaz, SCE: from one of those two, methods. From one of the three methods, right? If our underground is completed, you'll get it from the undergrounding. If the undergrounding is not completed, and it's an undergrounding area, then we'll

417

01:15:35.720 --> 01:15:47.809

Albert Diaz, SCE: try to feed you from a nearby overhead source. If an overhead nearby source is not available or a feasible solution, then we'll install a generator to feed you.

418

01:15:49.350 --> 01:15:51.900

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And then follow-up, so us...

419

01:15:52.090 --> 01:15:59.070

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: like, as you, as you guys know, the area where I live and my neighbors are,

420

01:15:59.360 --> 01:16:08.259

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: That area is private... is all private streets. So... Assuming that,

421

01:16:08.260 --> 01:16:29.870

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: We... if we were to take the hypothetical where one of, like, myself or my neighbors completed our rebuild before your undergrounding is installed, is there any instance in which we would be in jeopardy of being completely done with our rebuild, done with our homes, but not being able to get a certificate of occupancy to actually occupy the building because there's no electrical

422

01:16:29.890 --> 01:16:32.840

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Or no permanent electrical being supplied.

423

01:16:35.290 --> 01:16:50.239

Albert Diaz, SCE: I think that would be a question. I don't know if the, our county partners can help me with that. You know, as far as Edison, we will provide you, a source, but I don't know if that, impedes your permanent occupancy permit or not.

424

01:16:51.100 --> 01:17:10.160

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Great, that's a great question that I haven't heard posed, with the generator option, but my understanding was, again, that, properties would be served overhead, and that's why we'd have that adaptable panel that could be served overhead now, and, sorry, underground now and overhead in the future, but I'll certainly look into that if it's a generator.

425

01:17:10.160 --> 01:17:15.540

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: what that would mean at the end of your construction. So I'll get back to the group on that, Nick.

426

01:17:16.820 --> 01:17:17.709

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you.

427

01:17:18.460 --> 01:17:29.669

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I'll go with the next one. If our street or area is not... is currently not scheduled to be included in the TUG plan, how do we get our street included in undergrounding plans?

428

01:17:34.640 --> 01:17:50.500

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: You can, feel free to have folks reach out to the contact information that we shared in the, in the chat as well, and feel free to provide us feedback with that information, and we'll try to collect as many comments and feedback from the community as possible.

429

01:17:52.670 --> 01:17:53.430

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Thank you.

430

01:17:54.090 --> 01:18:05.539

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Okay, and this one, this one involves the trenching of other utilities, so how will other utilities underground, do we assume, in the same trench as SCE?

431

01:18:10.260 --> 01:18:12.259

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Can you repeat that question, Morgan?

432

01:18:12.680 --> 01:18:24.559

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Yes. How will other utilities, and I think this person is referring to the telecoms, how will other utilities underground, do we assume, in the same trench as SCE?

433

01:18:25.440 --> 01:18:31.050

Albert Diaz, SCE: So, I can take this question. I think I've got dropped, but I think I'm back. Hopefully you can hear me.

434

01:18:31.480 --> 01:18:46.069

Albert Diaz, SCE: So we share, we share our undergrounding plans with all the other utilities that, that are on the pole, such as cable and internet, to give them the opportunity to coordinate. However, they're, independent.

435

01:18:46.070 --> 01:18:56.279

Albert Diaz, SCE: So we can't speak for their specific plans. We would need... you would need to contact them directly in order to determine what their specific plans are, for those areas.

436

01:18:58.250 --> 01:19:06.350

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Maybe this is a question for the county, then. Does the county... I know in this, proposed undergrounding ordinance,

437

01:19:06.600 --> 01:19:24.860

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: we're not sure whether that's a comprehensive ordinance, so would the county be compelling other utilities to either share a trench or do, do a trench alongside SEE, or otherwise, like, get the other utilities undergrounded with SEE?

438

01:19:25.380 --> 01:19:42.380

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Great, and I'll take that. I appreciate the opportunity. I do want to say I'm Kira Barnett with Public Works, having, camera issues tonight, for those that can't see me, but like mentioned, an ordinance is proposed related to utility undergrounding, and it is still being vetted, so I don't have the details to share on that just yet.

439

01:19:44.990 --> 01:19:58.510

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, gotcha. Will there be less or more noise coming through the power, DC, etc, with undergrounding? So, do the transformers have any fans or any other buzzing noise at all? Will the transformer vibrate?

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01:20:00.080 --> 01:20:09.159

Albert Diaz, SCE: The transformers, do not have any fans, they're not designed with, with fans, and they should not make, any noise.

441

01:20:11.660 --> 01:20:12.370

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay.

442

01:20:13.680 --> 01:20:15.240

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay,

443

01:20:15.380 --> 01:20:31.450

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: I think this one's from an engineer. Covered conductor provides the same protection as undergrounding. Zero fires with 6,400 circuit miles from 2019 to present. The cost is less than \$400,000.

444

01:20:31.450 --> 01:20:40.060

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Dollars versus \$3.8 million per circuit mile. How does undergrounding make sense in the non-high-fire threat districts?

445

01:20:45.090 --> 01:20:47.990

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Albert, I'm gonna toss that one to you.

446

01:20:47.990 --> 01:20:50.160

Albert Diaz, SCE: Can you repeat that one one more time, please?

447

01:20:50.670 --> 01:21:07.289

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Sure. Covered conductor provides the same protection as undergrounding. Zero fires with 64 circuit miles from 2019 to present. The cost is less than \$400,000 versus \$3.8 million per circuit mile. How does undergrounding make sense in the non-high fire threat districts?

448

01:21:12.840 --> 01:21:13.920

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Oh, sorry.

449

01:21:14.110 --> 01:21:15.089

Albert Diaz, SCE: Oh, go ahead, Rasha.

450

01:21:15.090 --> 01:21:27.699

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: I was just gonna say, you know, targeted undergrounding, I think there might be... I have heard this question before, and I think there is a little bit of confusion, just, like, based on some of the data, because

451

01:21:27.700 --> 01:21:50.270

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: At Southern California Edison, we have not done, you know, a lot of undergrounding in our service area, so, I think maybe sometimes the statistics, look a

little, odd, like that there isn't, any net benefit in terms of wildfire mitigation. There is, more... is an enhanced wildfire mitigation with, undergrounding that we found.

452

01:21:50.270 --> 01:22:04.519

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: you know, in our distribution system, and there are, you know, less areas of exposure where I'll ask, actually, Al to, like, kind of chime in in terms of, like, how, some of the circuitry is a bit more exposed on the,

453

01:22:04.520 --> 01:22:15.940

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: on the, covered conductor overhead, it still is, like, as the commenter said, a very strong... and one reason why we have done so much covered conductor in our Southern California

454

01:22:15.940 --> 01:22:27.119

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: service area is because it has been really effective at wildfire mitigation, and undergrounding is just, an enhanced version of wildfire mitigation as well. So maybe

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01:22:27.120 --> 01:22:31.829

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Al, if you wouldn't mind chiming in, in terms of, like, what you see out in the field and the exposures we see.

456

01:22:32.680 --> 01:22:48.829

Albert Diaz, SCE: Yeah, so exactly what you said, Rochelle, the covered conductor, is great, and it is really effective. However, covered conductor is still, exposed to the elements, right? For example, if it's high winds, it could still be... you could still be experiencing a PSPS.

457

01:22:48.830 --> 01:23:10.540

Albert Diaz, SCE: Lightning, our system is still exposed to lightning, if lightning storms come through the area. In addition, it still, you know, requires us to go through the neighborhood and trim the trees. The trees get the same amount of trimming as they do when it's conventional, overhead wire. So those are some of the additional benefits that underground

458

01:23:10.550 --> 01:23:15.239

Albert Diaz, SCE: provides versus the, the covered conductor.

459

01:23:17.060 --> 01:23:26.009

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you. I'm going to back up a bit. This is a pretty fundamental question, but I'm sure it's something people would like a really direct answer on. It's to county and CPUC.

460

01:23:26.030 --> 01:23:40.090

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: It's a dual question. Why are residents taking on the expense of undergrounding, potentially? Why is the CPUC allowing SCE to pass all these costs to fire victims versus making SCE pick up the bill?

461

01:23:51.160 --> 01:23:52.779

Hope Christman - CPUC: Alright, I guess I'll take this one.

462

01:23:53.030 --> 01:23:54.402

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I wouldn't say...

463

01:23:55.390 --> 01:23:59.880

Hope Christman - CPUC: I wouldn't say that the, CPUC is...

464

01:23:59.990 --> 01:24:06.059

Hope Christman - CPUC: passing on these costs. The costs that are being borne right now are coming out of SCE's general rate case.

465

01:24:06.100 --> 01:24:24.429

Hope Christman - CPUC: If there are fire losses that SCE wants to recover, that's when they're going to have to file with the CPUC to recover those costs. So right now, what they're using is the costs for undergrounding that were put into their general rate case that was just recently approved.

466

01:24:25.600 --> 01:24:28.569

Hope Christman - CPUC: SCE might want to expand on that.

467

01:24:29.550 --> 01:24:31.120

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Hope, SCE.

468

01:24:32.590 --> 01:24:51.179

Lisa Woon, SCE: That's correct. Thanks, Hope. So, again, we are approved in our latest general rate case for targeted undergrounding, and I do want to maybe elaborate a little bit more, or augment what Rochelle and Al put in. Particularly, we do do targeted undergrounding. We understand, in particular in El Cedina, this gave us a unique situation.

469

01:24:51.180 --> 01:25:14.670

Lisa Woon, SCE: Right? We've talked about how this is a liken to a new development, or a green field. We had several homes destroyed, we had our own infrastructure destroyed. Gives us an opportunity to build back more resiliently. Again, it will be a combination of targeted underground and covered conductor. Again, those two mitigations do reduce the risk of an ignition, especially in high-fire threats, high-fire risk areas, and so

470

01:25:14.670 --> 01:25:31.889

Lisa Woon, SCE: Again, in our general rate case, we did get approved for approximately 212 miles of targeted undergrounding. We are looking at what portion of that funding will apply to the Altadena rebuild area. Again, as Hope mentioned, if we do seek recovery.

471

01:25:31.930 --> 01:25:43.950

Lisa Woon, SCE: We will be filing that with the PEC, and again, there will be a filing, there'll be public comment, there'll be opportunity for us, even SCE, to share with the public that we have filed for that. Again, thanks for that.

472

01:25:45.070 --> 01:25:48.030

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you. Thank you, Lisa. So...

473

01:25:48.570 --> 01:25:58.939

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I'm gonna ask, more of an alignment question, so how do we influence where handholds go to ensure that they don't go where we want driveways?

474

01:26:02.400 --> 01:26:15.139

Albert Diaz, SCE: Yeah, so if that is the case, we will definitely work with the homeowners. The last thing we want to do is put a tan hole where your driveway's gonna go. In addition to that, we are also working with homeowners. If, for example.

475

01:26:15.140 --> 01:26:25.389

Albert Diaz, SCE: We designed the stub out to be on the north side of the property. However, the homeowner intends to put the panel on the south side of the property. We are definitely working with

476

01:26:25.390 --> 01:26:30.130

Albert Diaz, SCE: homeowners, as Morgan, as you saw, when we went out to your, neighborhood.

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01:26:31.110 --> 01:26:35.819

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Yeah, and I think it would be... I think it would be great to clarify for people, so...

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01:26:36.270 --> 01:26:53.370

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: because you're not work... this isn't a development, and every homeowner is designing their own home, I think it'd be great to clarify how homeowners make sure that their design and your design for your undergrounding aligns, and what the process is to maybe

479

01:26:53.470 --> 01:26:55.919

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Go to you guys to seek that alignment.

480

01:26:57.240 --> 01:27:11.910

Albert Diaz, SCE: Definitely. So, the sooner we can align, the better, because, you know, we're actively starting a lot of these projects, and we definitely want to have these changes in before we start digging and installing infrastructure. The best way to connect with us is

481

01:27:11.910 --> 01:27:20.180

Albert Diaz, SCE: To either go on our site and submit your, your request, for... for service.

482

01:27:20.180 --> 01:27:22.609

Albert Diaz, SCE: You can submit that with a preliminary design.

483

01:27:22.610 --> 01:27:26.980

Albert Diaz, SCE: You can also visit the One Stop Center, where we do have,

484

01:27:26.980 --> 01:27:44.089

Albert Diaz, SCE: Edison Planner's there, and the Edison Planners, are able to intake the information and might be able to look it up real time. If they're not able to look it up real time, they'll take your information down and, get with the, the design team for the underground, and get you an answer back as soon as possible.

485

01:27:45.750 --> 01:27:58.689

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And just to follow up, if there is a circumstance where you complete your underground work before someone has their design completed, and they realize that

486

01:27:58.960 --> 01:28:06.580

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: the sweep that you've put into their property might be on the wrong side of their property. What's the... what's the way to remedy that?

487

01:28:07.770 --> 01:28:24.780

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Al, I do want... I will let you answer that question, but I just did want to, provide some context for folks, because I know this is a little bit of an ongoing process here. So, in the presentation, you'll... you may recall that we shared a pretty broad map.

488

01:28:24.780 --> 01:28:38.440

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Not all those areas have been designed in detail yet, because obviously we're working in a stepwise approach. So, one of the ways that we're trying to provide communication to homeowners or property owners.

489

01:28:38.440 --> 01:28:56.269

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: of where we're going to be undergrounding and what the potential impacts could be for your property, is that we're sending out communications in the form of letters and emails. Please, if you can, update your contact preferences to SCE.com in your account.

490

01:28:56.270 --> 01:29:17.150

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: And, we'd really like to get... be able to provide you with updates as we go along. We're also updating our website and, posting on social media. If there is an ROE or easement question, we'll be reaching out to you. Just kind of get that question, a lot, and just want to let you know that we are going to be making proactive attempts to communicate with you, but please

491

01:29:17.150 --> 01:29:22.189

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: with that, I'll allow all to go back and go in more detail with that question specifically.

492

01:29:22.240 --> 01:29:24.570

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: But just wanted to provide that clarification.

493

01:29:25.450 --> 01:29:46.280

Albert Diaz, SCE: Yeah, so we do ask that we get approached as early as possible, because once the construction is done, it is very difficult to have to re-trench, re-dig up the street, to move that. So if you do see us in your area, in your neighborhood, and we have not made contact yet, please approach us so that we are able to

494

01:29:46.280 --> 01:29:50.019

Albert Diaz, SCE: Coordinate and make sure that we are in alignment.

495

01:29:50.030 --> 01:29:52.829

Albert Diaz, SCE: Like I said, the sooner, the sooner the better.

496

01:29:55.050 --> 01:30:02.120

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Great, thank you. This is a question from a resident. I am on the front end of a flag lot.

497

01:30:02.120 --> 01:30:21.650

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: The original overhead line for the property behind me ran past my property, connecting to a pole on his property. I assume the trench to my property will need to be extended to the property behind me. Who typically pays for that? Do I need to negotiate with my neighbor, or can someone help coordinate this?

498

01:30:25.720 --> 01:30:34.570

Albert Diaz, SCE: So, if I understand the question correctly, this particular person, their home is located behind somebody else's home, it's a flag lot.

499

01:30:34.710 --> 01:30:35.749

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: There is fruit.

500

01:30:36.090 --> 01:30:49.410

Albert Diaz, SCE: Oh, they're in front. Okay, so, it's address-specific, so on that type of question, I would ask that they email me directly. That way, I can help them, help answer the question

501

01:30:49.410 --> 01:30:56.659

Albert Diaz, SCE: Better. So it's just... it depends on... there's a lot of variables, but I'd be more than happy to help them.

502

01:30:57.220 --> 01:30:58.990

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: You drop your,

503

01:30:59.240 --> 01:31:03.060

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: If you can drop us your email address, that'd be great, we'll share it with the group.

504

01:31:05.200 --> 01:31:08.550

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, next question would be...

505

01:31:08.680 --> 01:31:14.650

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: So what about the 19 miles still being approved? How will we know if we...

506

01:31:14.860 --> 01:31:17.780

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Will be undergrounded in future plans.

507

01:31:22.960 --> 01:31:43.250

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Yes, as soon as we get additional information, we will, absolutely look for opportunities to share that out, specifically with groups like Altagether and ACONA, as well as our website. We'll absolutely be pushing out updates as soon as it becomes available, so thanks for the question. We'll, we're gonna keep coming and keep providing information and updates as it becomes available.

508

01:31:45.090 --> 01:31:50.969

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I have two questions that are similar, but different enough that we've kept them apart. I'll ask it the first way.

509

01:31:51.380 --> 01:31:56.929

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: We have already discussed with contractors and SCE as part of our burned panel replacement.

510

01:31:57.370 --> 01:32:02.530

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And the quotes for connecting our house have been between 20 to 30K.

511

01:32:02.650 --> 01:32:14.209

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: SCE has told us this is our responsibility to pay. How are we supposed to pay for this? Insurance will not cover this as not considered a code upgrade per my adjuster.

512

01:32:18.810 --> 01:32:27.760

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So, this is Alicia Ramos with LA County Public Works. Let me speak to that in some, you know, some context relative to the grant.

513

01:32:27.890 --> 01:32:40.170

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So as I said earlier, we are currently, right now, doing some cost estimating based on more of a, you know, existing condition, right? So I think the price that you're being quoted there

514

01:32:40.170 --> 01:32:50.509

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: is very specific to that lot. We've been looking at different quadrants of Altadena, and I'm sure residents of Altadena know how varied the range of lots can be in El Tadena.

515

01:32:50.530 --> 01:33:08.650

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: In the more southern quadrants, we have more typical lots. They seem to replicate very consistently. But we have lots that can range anywhere from 4,000 to 10,000. Other quadrants, we have larger lots that are more in the average of 15,000-16,000. Then, of course, around the foothills, we have very unique lots.

516

01:33:08.900 --> 01:33:21.770

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So, your particular condition, I can't say that we're speaking to that, but we are looking at the varied range of lots in Altadena when we come to our estimate that we will be predicating our large ask number on.

517

01:33:21.990 --> 01:33:24.560

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So, with that said.

518

01:33:24.650 --> 01:33:42.110

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: We don't have the cost estimate yet for the exercise we're going through, but we do expect that it will be higher than the \$8,000 to \$10,000 that was quoted earlier. So, again, this is going to be a rebate program, so we would come up with what we feel is a representative cost based off the range.

519

01:33:42.140 --> 01:33:45.789

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: That rebate is then going to be predicated on

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01:33:46.170 --> 01:34:09.110

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: to the amount of. So you'd have to substantiate the documentation, you'd have to bring that, do it in accordance with the workshops we'll be providing so that your documentation is compliant, and if your cost is, let's say, you know, \$10,000, \$11,000, you have a lot that might be on the smaller side, and if the up-to amount, let's just say, I'm just taking numbers, because we have not officially decided on this yet with the cost estimates still being out.

521

01:34:09.110 --> 01:34:11.799

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: But let's say it's up to 18,000.

522

01:34:11.800 --> 01:34:17.350

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: you would be rebated the cost that you experienced. If you have a uniquely larger lot.

523

01:34:17.440 --> 01:34:24.719

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: That is somewhere in the range of, let's say, \$22, \$25,000, and the up-to limit has been established at 18,

524

01:34:24.720 --> 01:34:37.680

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: There just are some unique conditions that we can't account for and say that that's the average that every lot would experience. So I just want to recognize some of the realities of the range of lot differences we've seen in Altadena, and I'm sure you're aware of.

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01:34:38.280 --> 01:34:44.189

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Thank you, Alicia. I'll kind of truncate the next question, which was on the same topic, and I...

526

01:34:44.190 --> 01:34:59.499

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: I think I understand it, but if you can just clarify, if that cost also incurs, like, removing a driveway, because many of the standing homes, and even homes that were burned, still have driveways that might be usable, but if they have to dig that up and replace it.

527

01:34:59.500 --> 01:35:02.180

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: That cost can be covered by the grant as well?

528

01:35:02.320 --> 01:35:20.249

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: That's what our cost estimating is being based on now. We are looking at the conditions of a complete install, which means the trenching, the conduit, which would be necessary in any situation, but we are looking at more practical, conditions that are going to be encountered, which is you'll be pulling up existing, hardscape.

529

01:35:20.430 --> 01:35:26.050

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So yeah, we're including that in the cost estimates. That would be part of the narrative that we submit with the application, and again.

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01:35:26.480 --> 01:35:33.130

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: hopefully awarded off those conditions. We want to, represent a very realistic situation.

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01:35:33.790 --> 01:35:47.370

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And we keep talking about we're hoping to be rewarded. Is there anything we as the public, or... or the town council, or organizations in Ulta Dean that can do to help push forward, that can testify, that can appeal, that can...

532

01:35:47.620 --> 01:35:51.249

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Is there anything to be done that can help you push that forward?

533

01:35:51.410 --> 01:36:07.369

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: That's a great question, Nick, and I will explore that with Cal OES. Sometimes letters of support from organizations, larger community entities, certainly can't hurt the process, but let me check with Cal OES. I will take that question back to them to see in what form we might

534

01:36:07.390 --> 01:36:15.049

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: suggest supportive, community, opinion. So, yeah, let me bring that back to my thing. It's a great question, Nick.

535

01:36:15.460 --> 01:36:16.200

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Appreciate it.

536

01:36:16.420 --> 01:36:18.600

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, all right,

537

01:36:19.700 --> 01:36:32.789

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: So, I am going to ask this, SCE said they need 100% participation to complete the project. Can we have clarity on what this means? All the owners of one particular property

538

01:36:33.010 --> 01:36:35.520

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: One whole particular block.

539

01:36:35.680 --> 01:36:37.660

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Or one large area.

540

01:36:40.170 --> 01:36:41.799

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Oh, go ahead.

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01:36:42.470 --> 01:36:43.630

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: I was just gonna...

542

01:36:43.800 --> 01:37:01.859

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: Yeah, so that would be an area where we're requesting ROEs from, so if it... and that could be all the situations mentioned... that you just mentioned. It could be a block, it could be half of a block, maybe there's a portion that's private street, another portion that is, that is...

543

01:37:02.010 --> 01:37:03.340

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: public.

544

01:37:03.450 --> 01:37:16.419

Vanessa Cardenas, SCE: So... and again, it's all dependent on, design, but we would hope to get 100% participation from the private properties that are impacted as far as, getting easement rights, or ROEs.

545

01:37:18.250 --> 01:37:20.740

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, thank you, and then,

546

01:37:21.480 --> 01:37:29.140

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Here's another question, can we refuse to connect to Edison if we have enough solar panels and battery backup for our home?

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01:37:29.710 --> 01:37:32.280

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: very Altadena question, I guess.

548

01:37:36.740 --> 01:37:40.289

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Does CPUC or county want to chime in on that?

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01:37:45.490 --> 01:37:57.399

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: not want to chime in, but will anyone? Yeah, this is Rachelle, and I, I apologize. I don't think I have that answer available right now, but I can be sure to come back with an answer on that as well.

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01:37:58.140 --> 01:38:04.500

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I would ask, our team giving us these questions, if you can save that answer for us, it'd be great to follow up.

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01:38:04.800 --> 01:38:18.900

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: All right, to be clear, fire survivors who accomplished rebuilding prior to late 2026, those property owners would not be eligible for reimbursement for costs expended to trench for undergrounding? I think I know the answer to that.

552

01:38:19.190 --> 01:38:20.740

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Let's start with that.

553

01:38:21.520 --> 01:38:25.589

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Yeah, let me make sure I understood that, because I'm going to have to drop off soon.

554

01:38:25.590 --> 01:38:28.400

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: rebate program, so I think the answer is laid in.

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01:38:28.900 --> 01:38:40.880

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Their question is, fire survivors who accomplish rebuilding prior to late 2026, those property owners would not be eligible for reimbursement for costs expended to trench for undergrounding?

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01:38:41.360 --> 01:38:53.999

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Correct. So again, that's the criteria we've been given through the Cal OES FEMA discussions, is that if the work occurs prior to award, then it is not eligible.

557

01:38:54.000 --> 01:39:02.310

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Now, I think there's some strategic things to consider, and this is only something that each individual homeowner can really consider with their designers and their contractors.

558

01:39:02.310 --> 01:39:11.359

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Does that mean that you connect with the overhead still? And then later, when the, let's assume that the grant is awarded.

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01:39:11.360 --> 01:39:23.469

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Could you then do your underground so then it's covered? That's a question that I need to take back to Cal OES so they can vet that with

FEMA and see, would that be eligible, or would they see it as, once you connect, you connect?

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01:39:23.470 --> 01:39:41.480

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: So these are things that, unfortunately, the county is not making decisions on. This is in communication with Cal OES and FEMA to make sure that we're giving you the most accurate information that we understand at this point. So what we understand at this point is, if it's constructed prior to award, it is not eligible. Are there other ways to strategize this?

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01:39:41.540 --> 01:39:45.949

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: that's what we want to take back to CalOS and FEMA and see if we can get more clarity.

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01:39:46.030 --> 01:40:02.320

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: And do you just postpone, right? For some folks who are along the earlier routes of the SCE undergrounding, it's a question that you're going to get to sooner than others. Other routes, other lines that are going to come in two, three years later.

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01:40:02.820 --> 01:40:10.379

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: We don't know necessarily who's going to be impacted at what year. Let me say that if the grant is awarded.

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01:40:10.560 --> 01:40:18.649

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Services will be covered for 4 years. So let's assume we get the award in late 2026, then that would go for 4 years.

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01:40:21.410 --> 01:40:22.590

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Thank you, Alicia.

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01:40:22.590 --> 01:40:42.839

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Kira Barnett also at the county, so on the permitting side, then I would say, you know, advisable to talk to your contractor about the sequencing of construction, right? And maybe do that work, you know, later in the... in the

project, to see, again, if that money is secured, and again, if it's worth, you know, postponing that work, as Alicia mentioned.

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01:40:42.840 --> 01:40:44.369

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: So, something to consider.

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01:40:45.660 --> 01:40:51.710

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you. I mean, it's just hard for me to hear that answer, and I appreciate it, because you're being direct and you're being honest.

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01:40:52.020 --> 01:40:55.300

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: But, I mean, I guess it's baffling to me

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01:40:55.360 --> 01:41:12.479

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: that a town that's eager to come back and be back home, there's just no process possible that somebody can get back home and not know that, in retrospect, that they can be part of this grant. Currently, I hear what you're saying, Alicia, that you're working out some of the logistics, but...

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01:41:12.710 --> 01:41:22.159

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I guess I'm just shocked. So somebody could... can finish building because they can't afford to pay a rent. I mean, I could go deep into this, but...

572

01:41:22.160 --> 01:41:28.750

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Absolutely, yeah. I mean, it is absolutely part of the... I think...

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01:41:29.370 --> 01:41:41.030

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: impractical application and reality that just suggests, why wouldn't it be covered? And that's where I think we need to explore further with Cal OES and FEMA, but that is the information we've been given to date.

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01:41:41.220 --> 01:41:45.549

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: I think something else to consider, though, is to really look at your timeline.

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01:41:45.580 --> 01:41:53.580

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: as was mentioned earlier, to go through the right of entry process, to go through the easement, there is time built in there as well, so I think

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01:41:53.600 --> 01:42:03.329

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: really trying to coordinate what your specific situation is, and that is still an effort to coordinate with us, to coordinate with Building and Safety Review, to coordinate with SCE.

577

01:42:03.330 --> 01:42:13.609

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: I am not for a moment saying that there isn't a heavy lift in just getting a schedule together, but that's where we need to become more informed to just say, what is your unique situation? And to see

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01:42:13.890 --> 01:42:32.110

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Is that something that you're going to be facing? But it is a reality, we acknowledge. It is a reality that quite a number of homes, for building faster, getting back home quicker, which is what we all want to do, that there is, right now, an inherent risk that you may miss this funding opportunity. Just acknowledging.

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01:42:32.110 --> 01:42:33.670

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: dictated by FEMA?

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01:42:35.540 --> 01:42:41.500

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: That is regulated by FEMA, right, that the application would go to FEMA, and what we're understanding is until there's an award.

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01:42:41.520 --> 01:42:56.339

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: those things become ineligible. There are certain things that can be eligible, which is considered, pre-work, which would be design. So if you did something to design the line, but did not actually do the construction work, that may be eligible.

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01:42:56.380 --> 01:43:02.290

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: But I think, realistically, we all know that the biggest part of the expense is going to be construction.

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01:43:02.690 --> 01:43:03.290

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Yeah.

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01:43:03.460 --> 01:43:19.560

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: So, and I'll let it go, because I know you can feel it with me, Alicia, but you can see the emojis. If there's anything at this point you walk away from this with, it would be, let's figure that out, because that seems just, again, just baffling.

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01:43:19.620 --> 01:43:30.299

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And you don't have an answer, and you're following FEMA rules, but boy, whatever we can do to figure out to get people back and not be screwed over, that then they can't be part of this, that would be great.

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01:43:30.300 --> 01:43:30.650

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Please.

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01:43:30.650 --> 01:43:36.490

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Follow up for Alicia. So, can you just remind us what the timeline is for that FEMA money

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01:43:36.860 --> 01:43:37.840

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: To be approved?

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01:43:37.840 --> 01:43:51.830

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Yes, so we anticipate... so what happens is once we submit the application, then Cal OES does their part to that application, and they submit it to FEMA. Their expectation is to submit it to FEMA in, 2026, early 2026.

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01:43:51.830 --> 01:44:00.860

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: And then FEMA will take time with it. Now, that's the big variable. We all understand that this is high priority, and it's to be expedited.

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01:44:00.860 --> 01:44:10.499

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: what that means on different, levels of government, which means Cal OES as well as FEMA, what we've been told is that to go through that process.

592

01:44:10.610 --> 01:44:25.800

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: don't anticipate that the award would come any sooner than late 2026. Hopefully, we see something more expedited, but we can't speak to the partners that we don't necessarily have influence with, but that's what we've been told. End of 2026.

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01:44:26.680 --> 01:44:29.989

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you for making it clear for us, Alicia. I do appreciate that.

594

01:44:30.350 --> 01:44:31.270

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Absolutely.

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01:44:31.970 --> 01:44:38.700

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Let's hope the government gets back to work pretty soon. Okay, go ahead. Okay, yeah, we won't go there. So...

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01:44:38.960 --> 01:44:42.620

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I'm gonna ask, let's see...

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01:44:43.330 --> 01:44:58.709

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I think I had a related question, I'm trying to find it here, one second. So, okay, please clarify what happens if a homeowner refuses to do trenching. I don't mean how it affects the entire project, but how does that homeowner get power?

598

01:45:04.380 --> 01:45:15.540

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And I'm so sorry, I promised to go off of it, but there was an end to that question I just asked, so Morgan, if we can hold onto that for just a second. Alicia, just for clarification,

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01:45:15.960 --> 01:45:24.489

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Are we talking about physical construction of the connection, or permit application? I assume you're talking about completed physical construction.

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01:45:24.490 --> 01:45:42.060

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: Physical completed construction, so if you want to be eligible for that, just based off what we know today, you would want to hold off on actual construction until the grant is awarded, and again, referencing the late 2026 timeline we've been given.

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01:45:42.920 --> 01:45:46.860

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: That's completion, not... you can be constructing, it's just completion.

602

01:45:46.860 --> 01:45:58.280

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: It's construction of what you want to cover. So, for instance, if you've started that construction, let's just... I'm just going to take arbitrary months here. Let's say you've started that construction.

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01:45:58.310 --> 01:46:17.480

Alicia Ramos, LA County Public Works: in September 2026, but the grant isn't awarded until November, what you've expended prior to the grant award in November would not be eligible. It would be from the point of the award forward. So again, this is something that is a strategic nature that you want to give thought to.

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01:46:17.480 --> 01:46:21.279

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, thank you. Go ahead, Morgan, can you repeat that question?

605

01:46:21.870 --> 01:46:31.609

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Yeah, so please clarify what happens if a homeowner refuses to do trenching. I don't mean how it affects the entire project, but how does that homeowner get power?

606

01:46:32.330 --> 01:46:34.390

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: I think Albert could probably address that.

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01:46:35.630 --> 01:46:40.780

Albert Diaz, SCE: So, if we're referring to, like, a home that's still standing.

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01:46:40.910 --> 01:46:57.750

Albert Diaz, SCE: In the interim, what we would do is we would set a pole, a service pole, like I talked about earlier, a 25 to 35 foot pole, and then we would rise up from the underground distribution system and feed that home, overhead as it currently is being fed right now.

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01:46:58.850 --> 01:47:04.870

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: So, does that apply to new construction as well? Let's say, like, someone was doing new construction.

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01:47:05.120 --> 01:47:12.550

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: For whatever reason they did not want a trench, will you provide a poll for that, that person as well?

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01:47:13.540 --> 01:47:19.680

Albert Diaz, SCE: Yeah, every situation's unique, so we would, take a look at those, situations on an individual basis.

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01:47:24.540 --> 01:47:37.659

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Great. I think this was covered, but out of respect, I'll repeat it. How will the county advocate for other avenues to pay for this other than this grant? This is a clear need by the community.

613

01:47:42.260 --> 01:47:59.550

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Great, this is Kira Barnett with LA County Public Works again, and if the county is unsuccessful in obtaining the grant award, then the underground and connection process would proceed as it typically does, where the cost would be borne by the individual homeowners if they chose to make the underground connections.

614

01:47:59.680 --> 01:48:10.609

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Or I understand, and Edison could confirm, that homeowners who opt out, to make the underground connections, would be provided overhead connection by a vertical pole on their property.

615

01:48:12.030 --> 01:48:21.760

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Kira. I see Alicia had to leave, and I just... if she hasn't gone yet, I do want to just point out, I know you're just giving facts as they are given to you, and you as well, Kira, and others.

616

01:48:21.760 --> 01:48:37.319

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: So I appreciate you being here and sharing the information. Sometimes it's hard to share answers we don't want to hear, and I wanted to make sure we knew that Alicia is not making that decision, she's simply sharing the information in front of her. So it's great to know our passion toward changing that.

617

01:48:37.840 --> 01:48:39.790

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Appreciate it. Okay. Thanks.

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01:48:40.850 --> 01:48:57.670

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: This question again pertains to private property. so this is just another clarifying question about what exactly happens when you don't get 100% participation, and I think probably what we could do is provide clarity on

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01:48:57.770 --> 01:49:04.510

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: the process of condemnation and how SEE would deal with having to take an easement in order to complete their project.

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01:49:08.090 --> 01:49:16.500

Lisa Woon, SCE: Yeah, that's correct, Margaret. So I think, again, we try to work with property owners to best negotiate the right of entry and the easement.

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01:49:16.500 --> 01:49:30.340

Lisa Woon, SCE: If there are cases where we need to pursue condemnation or eminent domain, we don't take that lightly. We will make multiple efforts to work with the resident and the property owner to get to some resolution, but we can come back to the

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01:49:30.340 --> 01:49:40.400

Lisa Woon, SCE: group here with some more definitive steps on what that might entail. But that will include, again, notifying the resident and property owner that we are looking to take

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01:49:40.470 --> 01:49:47.669

Lisa Woon, SCE: those specific necessary steps. But we'll try to do everything we can to do a negotiation on the right of entry and easement.

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01:49:48.320 --> 01:49:59.809

Lisa Woon, SCE: Again, we understand that it's a lengthy process for both us and for the property owner, so we don't like to use that as the main tool for us to be able to secure those east bins and right of entries.

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01:49:59.810 --> 01:50:16.629

Lisa Woon, SCE: Again, it does potentially delay some of the project, depending on the design. We are not able to completely redesign. We take every effort. As Vanessa mentioned, there are some exceptions, but again, we can come back to you with a little bit more detail on what are

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01:50:16.640 --> 01:50:26.970

Lisa Woon, SCE: But what would be the next steps, and what can property owners can expect to hear from us? What type of information they need as we continue the negotiation there?

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01:50:29.590 --> 01:50:39.279

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: All right, if our insurance companies do not cover undergrounding costs, and the rebate or grant is unavailable, will SCE cover the undergrounding as part of its settlement?

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01:50:39.390 --> 01:50:42.389

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: To make us whole and restore what was damaged.

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01:50:47.700 --> 01:51:03.790

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: Yeah, that's a good question. We're currently still in the process of developing the direct claims reimbursement program, so, that will be something that we will be addressing and asking that question. We'll be able to provide an answer to that as the program launches.

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01:51:04.660 --> 01:51:14.830

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Rochelle, and I recognize we won't have all our answers tonight, but I appreciate you hearing that, and hearing it loudly, and I know you're making note that these are the concerns on our minds.

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01:51:15.460 --> 01:51:16.660

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: 100%.

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01:51:16.980 --> 01:51:40.769

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Nick, if I could, LA County Public Works again, Kira Barnett, another thing to keep in mind, a stipulation of the rebate program, would be that if you are an insured homeowner and your policy allows for cost coverage to connect by underground, then you wouldn't be eligible for the grant rebate, so it would be prudent to inquire with your insurance carrier if there is a stipulation that your covered power connection cost may be

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01:51:40.770 --> 01:52:00.529

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Any method underground or overhead. If your insurance carrier held you to an in-kind connection, meaning like-for-like, if you were overhead before the fire and they would only pay you enough to cover overhead again, then you may qualify for the grant assistance, since you'd be connecting underground and not covered by your insurance policy.

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01:52:01.880 --> 01:52:02.890

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Carol.

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01:52:04.250 --> 01:52:20.319

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And I think I'll just jump in here, because we were talking about the wildfire claim, just to mention that if there are costs that are incurred to homeowners that are not included in your insurance, another source of gap funding, if you're not participating in the wildfire claim.

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01:52:20.320 --> 01:52:25.359

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: is your personal claim against SCE. So, I would advise everyone

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01:52:25.460 --> 01:52:35.949

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: if they are involved in a claim, to talk to their attorneys about that possibility as well. So you could recoup some costs through that personal claim.

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01:52:36.070 --> 01:52:38.680

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: So talk to your attorneys.

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01:52:39.310 --> 01:53:03.660

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Could I interject again real quick? I'm sorry, Morgan. I just wanted to share with everybody, we are hosting a Rebuilding Together workshop this Saturday, 10/25 from 10 to 12. I'll make sure and put that in the chat so you can share it out. But it is a Rebuilding Together workshop on addressing the funding gap. So we'll have some, key players, some subject matter experts there, including LACDA and others, to talk about addressing the funding gap.

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01:53:03.700 --> 01:53:15.790

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: So I'll make sure, again, share that, but it's on our recovery.lacounty.gov rebuilding site under workshops, and it will be a recorded session that'll be posted online after... about a week after Saturday.

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01:53:16.490 --> 01:53:20.260

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Kara. Can you clarify which funding gap you're talking about?

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01:53:20.260 --> 01:53:37.020

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: just in that, you know, some people have insurance, some people don't have insurance. If you're underinsured, you know how much your construction might cost. It's, how to assess and address, that gap between maybe insurance that you do have and your cost of construction. So just looking at different ways to meet that gap.

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01:53:37.620 --> 01:53:50.470

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you. Thank you. We'll be sure to include that in our, in our, Block Captain newsletter, too, that goes out. My turn to ask a question? Yeah. Okay. So, this one's kind of a long one, so,

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01:53:50.580 --> 01:54:01.880

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Do the manholes or stub-outs contain any precious materials or metals? If so, what is the security approach to preventing theft of those materials?

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01:54:03.490 --> 01:54:13.600

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: The neighborhood in which we are now renting does have precious materials under those manholes, and nearly all blocks are currently without street lights as a result of widespread theft.

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01:54:13.890 --> 01:54:23.290

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Can we assume there have been upgrades to materials or security that will be used in Altadena since this... since this other neighborhood was undergrounded?

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01:54:26.960 --> 01:54:29.180

Albert Diaz, SCE: So I think I could take that question.

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01:54:29.480 --> 01:54:31.499

Albert Diaz, SCE: So the...

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01:54:31.650 --> 01:54:45.740

Albert Diaz, SCE: The conduit itself, I think that was part of the question, right? The conduit and the handhole itself, the conduit is made out of, PVC. The handhold, depending on which type of handhole it is, it's either made out of fiberglass or...

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01:54:45.740 --> 01:54:51.790

Albert Diaz, SCE: concrete. All of our structures are secured as best as we can secure them.

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01:54:51.830 --> 01:55:06.490

Albert Diaz, SCE: And inside of those, structures, we use, aluminum, cable. Typically, what gets, what gets stolen is the copper cable, and we don't have that inside of those structures.

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01:55:08.970 --> 01:55:15.589

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Okay, thank you. We're gonna do two more questions. We're coming up on 8 o'clock, or more if we can get through them quickly.

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01:55:15.590 --> 01:55:30.030

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: We are at the end stage of our build and close to requesting certificate of occupancy. Will Edison release a copy of the plan so my builder can set up the connection points at our property line? We are in a zone that was completely devastated, and there are only temporary power poles.

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01:55:30.790 --> 01:55:36.679

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirlledge: Those plans are currently still being changed, correct? So they're on the site currently?

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01:55:39.370 --> 01:55:58.390

Albert Diaz, SCE: So, the best answer for that, again, that's kind of a hard answer to give you a direct answer on, because it varies from site to site. What I would say is contact the

One Stop... go to the One Stop Shop, the One Stop Center, and our planners can help provide you an answer specific to that property.

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01:55:58.840 --> 01:56:04.409

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Great, and that was on their slide deck. We'll provide that again, I think it's 454 Woodbury, or somewhere near there.

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01:56:04.820 --> 01:56:11.950

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Is it better to have the conduit run underneath a driveway, or is it better to run it under a pervious area?

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01:56:16.830 --> 01:56:34.600

Albert Diaz, SCE: So, our conduit, is typically between 24 inches and 30 inches underground, and it's, it can be under concrete, it can be under a roadway, it could be under, a green belt, so it's, it, it can function on...

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01:56:34.770 --> 01:56:36.420

Albert Diaz, SCE: All the different scenarios.

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01:56:36.870 --> 01:56:38.109

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Morgan?

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01:56:38.810 --> 01:56:43.510

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, I think this question is best addressed to the CPUC.

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01:56:43.630 --> 01:56:58.320

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Any comments to the governor's last-minute utility legislation that appears to benefit the utilities to the detriment of the users, formerly known as SB 254? LA Times has referred to it as a bailout.

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01:57:04.110 --> 01:57:08.259

Hope Christman - CPUC: I apologize, I'm not familiar with the details of that, so I can't speak to it.

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01:57:11.630 --> 01:57:15.280

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Okay, go into the supervisor Parker? Sure,

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01:57:15.680 --> 01:57:25.090

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: So, Supervisor Barger has mentioned the one trench model for undergrounding the utilities. How is the county coordinating with all other utilities?

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01:57:25.980 --> 01:57:37.170

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Hi, I'm Kira Barnett again from LA County. That would be that ordinance that's proposed, related to utility undergrounding, and as I mentioned, it's still being vetted, so I don't have the details to share tonight.

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01:57:38.170 --> 01:57:39.120

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you.

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01:57:39.310 --> 01:57:41.979

Michael Saltzman | Ennead Architects: Can I ask a follow-up on that, on that, Morgan?

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01:57:42.160 --> 01:57:43.649

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Yes, absolutely. I just...

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01:57:43.650 --> 01:57:50.209

Michael Saltzman | Ennead Architects: I guess just the question is, is why isn't that being ordinance coordinated with the undergrounding?

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01:57:51.960 --> 01:57:53.760

Michael Saltzman | Ennead Architects: that SCE's doing.

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01:57:55.890 --> 01:58:04.470

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: From what I understand, that is what it'll look to address, but like I said, I'm, I don't have any details on, on which way, the.

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01:58:04.470 --> 01:58:13.109

Michael Saltzman | Ennead Architects: Well, I guess what I mean is, why are you moving ahead before an ordinance that's going to coordinate infrastructure undergrounding, and you're doing undergrounding?

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01:58:15.100 --> 01:58:17.289

Ciara Barnett, LA County Public Works: Got it, so a question to Edison, is it?

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01:58:17.290 --> 01:58:17.700

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Yep.

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01:58:19.790 --> 01:58:39.480

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: I... yeah, I mean, I don't think we can speak for the county, per se, and the ordinance, but what I can say is that I do know that we have been working closely with the county as they develop the ordinance, specifically to help to enhance, collaboration, cooperation amongst utilities for the undergrounding piece.

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01:58:39.480 --> 01:59:03.930

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: One of the things that I also know is there are some areas within Altadena that have not been restored to service, and so those areas where there currently isn't service provided, we're trying to move ahead as quickly as possible to be able to provide service to those customers who don't yet have it. And in that regards, we're also trying to, you know, provide that expedited undergrounding service.

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01:59:04.090 --> 01:59:09.649

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: So that it's, you know, ready and available when those customers are ready and, ready to rebuild.

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01:59:10.090 --> 01:59:21.260

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you, Rochelle. I'll do one last question, it's an easy one. Is the cost double for two units on a property? Is it per panel, such as a single-family residence and an ADU?

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01:59:24.610 --> 01:59:48.380

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: What I can say is that I think the cost that we outlined, you know, that \$8,000 to \$10,000, that was really based on, as I mentioned, the 35 feet of 3-inch conduit trenching. Primarily, the primary cost, as far as I'm aware, are for the trenching, costs. So, perhaps, Al, if I missed anything, if there's, if you feel like there might be anything,

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01:59:48.380 --> 01:59:50.149

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: That would be a larger cost than that.

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01:59:50.150 --> 01:59:51.120

Rochelle Silsbee, SCE: To account for.

683

01:59:52.180 --> 02:00:02.050

Albert Diaz, SCE: Yeah, so I, just to make sure I got the question right, they're asking if... if we add an ADU, or if there's an ADU in addition to the regular home on the property, is there additional cost, right?

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02:00:02.370 --> 02:00:03.040

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Correct.

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02:00:03.840 --> 02:00:27.820

Albert Diaz, SCE: So, again, every situation's, different, however, there are things that you can do to avoid double the cost. For example, if you do a dual gang panel, which is a panel that's got 2 meters on it, so you just trench once to that panel, that panel has both meters. One meter would be used to serve your main residence, the second, meter would be used to feed, your ADU.

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02:00:27.820 --> 02:00:30.490

Albert Diaz, SCE: So that way, it would just be one conduit, one trench.

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02:00:31.170 --> 02:00:45.719

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: Thank you. That is our final question. Thank you for your patience. It's 8.02. I want to thank all our panelists for coming. I want to definitely

thank my partners with Altagether and the amazing team in the other room going through all the questions.

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02:00:45.720 --> 02:00:53.809

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: And to those watching, I really appreciate you taking the time and educating yourself and getting this clarity. I hope you spread the word.

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02:00:53.810 --> 02:01:10.180

Nic Arnzen & Morgan Whirledge: of what you've learned tonight. Let people know this recording is available. We appreciate you and your commitment to build back our community and make sure our voices continue to be heard, and we appreciate your patience if we didn't get to your question. Good night, everybody. Thank you, neighbors.