



## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** May 19, 2021  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Michael J. Aho, District Administrator  
**Subject:** Approval of SMUD Easement for Electrical Line Repair  
**Prepared By:** Sean Ventura, Parks & Facilities Manager

### **I. Recommendation**

It is the staff's recommendation to grant the utility easement along the south edge of Kruitof Way to the Sacramento Metropolitan Utility District (SMUD) in order to allow the proposed project alongside said roadway for the purposes of repairing and replacing aged electrical infrastructure in the area.

### **II. Background**

The District was originally approached by SMUD in November of 2020 with a proposal to acquire an easement extending from the western boundary of the Phoenix Park property along Kruitof Way, continuing eastward along that roadway, and extending into the Veterans of Foreign Wars' property on the eastern boundary of the Phoenix Park property along that same road.

The purpose of this project and the easement it requires is to replace aging electrical infrastructure in the area.

Since November, the project was placed on hold while SMUD worked out additional requirements during which time they requested the District refrain from action on the easement.

The easement would align along the southern edge of Kruitof Way. At least one SMUD pull-box would be installed along the length of this easement in the landscaped areas south of the roadway inside of District landscaping. Based on diagrams provided by SMUD, staff believes this pull-box will be located near the Jim David Restrooms building outside of the Phoenix Dog Park. The pull-boxes would be installed to grade; this project does not list any structures to be built above grade.

As part of this project, the earth to the south of Kruitof Way will need to be trenched in order to replace the electrical lines through the area. SMUD provides a year warranty on repair work performed as part of this project to return the affected property to its previous state.

Staff brought this project to the Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District Board of Directors at the regular meeting in March. At that time, the Board of Directors did not approve trenching/boring in the recently repaved Kruitof roadway. Staff was instructed to return to SMUD with the District's concerns and find an alternate solution. Between the March meeting and the May meeting, staff worked with SMUD personnel to find that solution, and staff believes that an agreement has been made which will satisfy both parties.

Rather than trenching through the roadway on District property, SMUD has agreed to move the electrical line off of Kruitof Way to the south and trench through landscaping for the entire length of the District's parcel. As part of this compromise, District staff will utilize the District's John Deere 5075e tractor to move landscaping boulders out of the way for the duration of the project. After completion, District staff will utilize the same methods to move the boulders back into position. The boulders will be moved further south; staff does not believe that moving these objects will allow entrance into the park that is not currently available.

Trenching in Kruitof Way on County property and in the roadway of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' property will still likely occur, as staff did not have bargaining power to stop such actions on others' property.

It is possible that the use of Kruitof Way will be impacted due to this project. This could potentially cause disruptions to public use of Phoenix Dog Park and the Phoenix Community Gardens, though the full extent of road closures and duration of closures are not known by staff at this time.

### **III. Problem /Situation/ Request**

The end goal of this project is beneficial to the surrounding area, as replacement of the electrical lines throughout the project site will help to ensure a reliable energy grid for local residents over a longer lifespan. As such, SMUD requests the granting of the proposed easement through the District's property.

### **IV. Financial Analysis**

The work necessary for this project will be performed almost entirely by SMUD. No District buy-in would be necessary. As such, the financial impact to the District is minimal in that less than a day's worth of staff time would be spent to move boulders to enable trenching outside of the roadway.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Aho  
District Administrator