



STAFF REPORT	
SUBJECT: Discussion and Consideration of Ordinance NO. 277-2024, An Ordinance Amending Section 8-5 of the Municipal Code Related to Requirements for Utility Construction and Maintenance in the Public Right of Way and Standards for Relocation of Underground Utilities	MEETING DATE: Nov. 21, 2024
SUBMITTED BY: Alan D. Flora, City Manager	
PURPOSE OF REPORT: <input type="checkbox"/> Information only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Item	

WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Consideration of regulation related to utility construction and maintenance work in the City right of way.

BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:

As the Council is aware the City of Clearlake relies on three water companies and Lake County Special Districts to provide water and sewer services to our residents. This creates frequent conflicts when the construction and maintenance work is done on these utilities, in particular when the City performs road maintenance projects. The scale and scope of the road maintenance work being undertaken in the City is unprecedented. It is wonderful to be able to get so much work done, however the lack of maintenance and investment in City infrastructure for several decades has resulted in very degraded roads in many areas. This condition requires much more significant reconstruction work to be accomplished, and therefore higher likelihood of conflict with underground utilities. The history of utility construction in Clearlake, which almost entirely happened prior to incorporation of the City, is very haphazard. We are commonly determining that lines were abandoned in place, too shallow to meet any type of current acceptable standard, undersized, varying pipe types etc. Utilities often do not have adequate plans and specifications of what is in the ground, making locating the facilities difficult.

The City has requirements for encroachment permits that covers most work by utilities in the right of way. The City's enforcement of these requirements has been spotty over the years, but the standards will be strictly followed moving forward. In addition to these requirements, it is necessary for additional standards to be in place that would regulate the relocation of underground utilities that conflict with City road projects and that fail to meet acceptable standards for separation from other utilities. Additionally, utility infrastructure must be safely installed or adjusted to ensure they do not become a hazard to the traveling public. While all of these items are common practice in the industry, and have been largely followed on projects in the City over the years, it is appropriate to more consistently regulate this work.

OPTIONS:

1. Introduce the Ordinance and Hold a First Reading, and Schedule Second Reading and Adoption at a subsequent Council meeting.
2. Direction to Staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None \$ Budgeted Item? Yes No

Budget Adjustment Needed? Yes No If yes, amount of appropriation increase: \$

Affected fund(s): General Fund Measure P Fund Measure V Fund Other:

Comments: N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

- Goal #1: Make Clearlake a Visibly Cleaner City
- Goal #2: Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City
- Goal #3: Improve the Quality of Life in Clearlake with Improved Public Facilities
- Goal #4: Improve the Image of Clearlake
- Goal #5: Ensure Fiscal Sustainability of City
- Goal #6: Update Policies and Procedures to Current Government Standards
- Goal #7: Support Economic Development

Attachments:

1. **Draft Ordinance 277-2024**