



FRUITA
COLORADO

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

TO: FRUITA CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR

FROM: KIMBERLY BULLEN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

DATE: MARCH 19, 2024

AGENDA TEXT: Presentation – Brad McCloud, Xcel Energy Area Manager, Community Relations Western Colorado to address Council concerns regarding utility strikes.

BACKGROUND

The City of Fruita and Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel Energy) have a Gas and Electric Franchise Agreement. This agreement grants Xcel Energy the non-exclusive right to make reasonable use of City Streets, Public Utility Easements, and other City Property to provide utility service to the City and to its residents under the Tariffs; and to acquire, purchase, construct, install, locate maintain, operate, upgrade and extend into, within and through the City all Company Facilities reasonably necessary for the generation, production, manufacture, sale, storage, purchase, exchange, transportation, transmission and distribution of Utility Service (natural gas) within and through the City.

With construction in the public right-of-way (ROW), the City has seen a significant number of utility strikes including natural gas utility lines owned and operated by Xcel. Several of these strikes were the result of utility gas lines not being marked correctly by Xcel's locators. Recently a gas line was struck near the CO-OP that resulted in the closure of the CO-OP and evacuations of several residents in the area. City Council is concerned about the number of strikes and is interested in understanding what actions Xcel Energy is taking to protect the residents of Fruita and Xcel's infrastructure during construction.