



City Council Agenda Report

Meeting Date: May 14, 2024

Initiated By: Staff

Prepared By: Harun Musaeftendic, Assistant Civil Engineer

Approved By: Aida Fairman, Public Works Director

Subject: Public Works Department's new Microtrenching A.C. Restoration Standard Detail SU-19A.

COUNCIL PRIORITY AREA

- Business Communities
- Circulation Safety and Efficiency
- Environmental Sustainability
- Housing
- Neighborhood Safety Infrastructure
- General Government

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Public Works Department's Microtrenching asphalt concrete (A.C.) Restoration Standard Detail SU-19A to comply with California Senate Bill 378.

POLICY QUESTION(S) FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This is exempt per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 - Existing Facilities.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

None

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

- In an effort to improve high-speed internet and provide connectivity to more Californians, the State implemented Senate Bill 378 (SB 378) on October 8, 2021. The intent of SB 378 is to accelerate the installation of fiber by utilizing "microtrench" method. SB 378 defines microtrench as a narrow opening excavation trench that is less than or equal to 4 inch in width and not less than 12 inch in depth and not more than 26 inches in depth that is created for the purpose of the installing subsurface pipe or conduits. SB 378 allows local agency

with jurisdiction to approve excavation to limit utilization of microtrench for fiber and fiber ancillary equipment installation only. Local agency may limit microtrench method if it determine, in writing, that allowing microtrench for fiber installation will have a specific, adverse impact on the public health and safety. SB 378 also states it does not supersede, nullify, or otherwise alter the requirement to comply with safety standard or Public Utilities Commission General Order No. 128, or successor standard.

- The Public Works Department is responsible for the review and approval of excavation permits, including installation of utilities within the public right-of-way. State's adoption of SB 378 allows Staff to streamline the approval process to a very specific utility installation. Adopting Microtrenching A.C. Restoration Standard Detail SU-19A does not negate any safety requirements when issuing an excavation permit. The adoption of this standard does codify a method of installing fiber within the City's limit that will minimize impact to the general public.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Microtrenching A.C. Restoration Standard Detail SU-19A
2. Resolution SU-19A Microtrenching Standard Detail