

# **Medina Comprehensive Plan Amended by Ordinance No. 924, October 12, 2015**

## **Section 8 - UTILITIES ELEMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires the utility element of the comprehensive plan to consist of “the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including, but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunication lines, and natural gas lines.”

### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

There are four utilities that provide services to Medina: electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and garbage and recyclables collection. The majority of electrical, gas and telephone lines are located along or within public rights-of-way.

Electrical power is supplied by Puget Sound Energy, Inc. It is estimated that the average residential customer uses 11,539 kilowatt hours per year. Puget Sound Energy, Inc. maintains two sub-stations in Medina: one adjacent to Wells-Medina Nursery on 84th Avenue NE and the other at the corner of NE 10th Street and 80th Avenue NE adjacent to Medina Park.

Natural gas is provided by Puget Sound Energy. And cable television is provided under a franchise agreement with Comcast.

Telephone service is provided to Medina by CenturyLink. The telecommunications industry is in the midst of significant advances in technology. Cellular and optical fiber technologies are transforming the way service is delivered, and the physical barriers that separate voice, data and video communications are rapidly disappearing. New technologies relating to wireless communications have increased the community’s demand for wireless communication services. In order to better meet this demand, in 2010 the City revised its telecommunications regulations. The updated regulations are intended to encourage improved delivery of wireless technologies throughout the City.

In 2010, the City entered into a nonexclusive telecommunications franchise agreement with ATC Outdoor DAS, LLC (ATC) to upgrade existing wireless communication facilities in Medina. The distributed antenna system subsequently installed by ATC conforms to the City’s updated telecommunication regulations, and is designed to meet projected capacity needs for at least five years.

Solid waste and recycling for Medina is handled under a franchise agreement with Republic Services. There is currently no household hazardous waste repository in the

City, though Medina is proportionately funding Bellevue's recycling activities to allow its residents the opportunity to utilize hazardous waste programs.

All of the above services are provided to Medina customers on an individual basis, and it is the providers' responsibility to maintain equipment and handle service problems and inquiries. With the exception of the two Puget Sound Energy, Inc. electrical substations and the distributed antenna system, there are no other major facilities operated by these providers within the City limits.

## **UTILITIES PLAN**

Utilities services will likely continue to be provided by the companies previously indicated. Given the minimal population growth, growth related impacts on system capacities are not likely to occur very rapidly. Presently, there do not appear to be any problems related to system capacity. Yet, while existing utility lines should be sufficient to meet the City's present needs, over time repairs and upgrades to the existing system may be necessary to maintain and/or improve efficiency, reliability and/or capacity. Additional gas, telephone and electrical hook-ups will be made on an individual, as needed basis. There are no plans by any of the providers to locate major facilities in the City.

The City actively encourages future undergrounding of remaining above ground utility lines in conjunction with street projects. Although undergrounding has been required for new construction for some time, there are a number of areas of the City that are still served by aerial lines. Above-ground installations are aesthetically problematic and subject to weather-related damage. The replacement of aerial wiring has been and should remain the primary responsibility of homeowners. However, the City can provide leadership to encourage progress on undergrounding.

Household waste reduction and recycling of waste materials will continue to be encouraged. In addition, the City will continue to work with Bellevue to provide special and hazardous waste programs.

## **GOALS**

**UT-G1** To maintain utility services sufficient to serve the City's needs.

**UT-G2** To minimize aesthetic and environmental impacts caused by utility services.

**UT-G3** To underground all remaining overhead utilities.

## **POLICIES**

**UT-P1** The City shall coordinate with applicable service providers to seek repairs and upgrades to existing utility facilities as necessary to maintain and/or improve efficiency, reliability, and/or capacity.

**UT-P2** The City shall provide leadership and seek to develop a plan to underground remaining above-ground utility lines.

**UT-P3** The City shall encourage household waste reduction and recycling of waste materials.

**UT-P4** The City shall continue work with Bellevue to encourage special and hazardous waste programs.