

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Relocation of Utility Facilities, Improvement of County Streets and Roads

**Policy  
Number**

J-2

**Page**

1 of 2

Purpose

To define and clarify financial responsibility for relocation of utility facilities in conjunction with public road and street improvement projects.

Background

Utility agencies are frequently required to relocate their facilities within County road right of way when such installations conflict with improvements undertaken by the County. The franchise rights that many utilities enjoy to place facilities in public streets are generally subject to an obligation to relocate facilities at their own expense when necessary to make way for proper governmental use of streets.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. Utility agencies shall bear the cost of utility relocations on all road improvement projects financed by public funds for the benefit of the public, including those within Permanent Road Division Zones.

The above shall not apply where existing utilities are located within property owned by the utility agency, or within a utility easement acquired prior in time and/or right to the County's right of way, or in other circumstances where the utility is not obligated to carry the expense of utility relocations.

2. On all road improvement projects in conjunction with private property developments - such as land subdivisions, lot splits, commercial or industrial developments, trailer parks, or speculative residential developments - the developer shall bear the cost of necessary utility relocations. In this case, it shall be the developer's responsibility to contact the utility agencies, advise them of proposed improvements, and make direct arrangements for relocation of any conflicting utilities. Evidence of such completed arrangements in the form of a clearance by the public utility shall be presented by the developer prior to final approval of the development's plans by the County or issuance of any permit to construct.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-25.

Board Action

12-02-68 (18)

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**Page**

J-2

2 of 2

12-09-68 (54)  
06-23-69 (98)  
07-26-88 (43)  
12-12-89 (49)  
08-07-02 (5)  
12-09-08 (33)  
05-09-12 (4)  
11-14-18 (9)

CAO Reference

1. Department of Public Works
2. Planning & Development Services